



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 14, 2024**

Community Design Studio  
7506 E Indian School Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Tina Drews, Chair  
Cynthia Romagnolo, Vice Chair  
Ashley Adams  
Veronica Aguilar (MS Teams)  
DeMarco Cason  
Jim Somerville

**ABSENT:** Muhammad Babur

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director  
Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director

**Call to Order**

Chair Drews called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Public Comment**

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

### **1. Introduction of newly appointed Commissioner James Somerville**

Chair Drews welcomed new commissioner Jim Somerville.

Commissioner Somerville introduced himself and talked about his background and his interest in being a member of the Commission. Commissioners and staff went around the table and introduced themselves and talked about their background.

### **2. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2024**

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER CASON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, CASON, AND SOMERVILLE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

### **3. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding the City of Scottsdale's 2025 Legislative Agenda**

Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director, presented the draft 2025 City of Scottsdale legislative agenda. He noted that he took City of Scottsdale's existing ordinance and combined it with state law's anti-discrimination section and rolled them together to give the statement more power. He opined that because it ties into state law, there will be a better opportunity to obtain approval by City Council. The amended language was as follows:

Outstanding Livability. Support actions to advance human rights in employment, housing and public accommodations, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, or based on disability.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, answered clarifying questions about the Commission's role as a recommending body to City Council, noting that they have the ability to recommend that this language be included in the draft Legislative Agenda to be taken through the City's process. Mr. Wiebusch said that if in the future it is thought that something has been missed, the statement can be rewritten to include those items.

A question was posed regarding including a reference to AI and technology. Chair Drews noted that Commissioner Babur's position regarding AI is how it is used in employment or systems relating to how housing is allocated, or zoning is determined. She said that a statement could be included referring to how technology supports particular items. Mr. Wiebusch noted that there is a statement in the Legislative Agenda that gives him the ability to oppose any efforts that are contrary to the City's position, which would include the use of technology in a discriminatory fashion. Chair Drews said that she and Jackie Johnson met with Mr. Wiebusch to review the statement and are both in full support of the language.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE'S 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA. VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, CASON, AND SOMERVILLE VOTED IN THE

AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Mr. Wiebusch said that the November 5, 2024, elections will likely have three or four legislative districts that are too tight to call for a few days. He will return for further discussion once he knows the margins in the State House and Senate and has a clearer picture of what can be expected.

**4. Discussion, recommendations, and possible action regarding the Human Relations Commission's goals, objectives, and strategic plan for the 2024-2025 fiscal year**

Chair Drews said that the next HRC meeting has been moved to Wednesday, November 13th with a regular start time. They will have a brief regular meeting and then move into a strategic planning session. The goals of the strategic planning session are to update the current strategic plan; ensure that the goals will be able to be measured; determine if there are any gaps that need to be filled; and clarify the purpose and role of the Commission. She noted that they will not review the HRC mission statement during the strategic planning session. If in the future the Commission wishes to modify the mission statement, it will require City Council Approval and could be brought forward as part of a package of changes and recommendations. She asked that Commissioners review the existing strategic plan and identify any additional items prior they would like to discuss prior to the meeting.

**5. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recent and upcoming diversity and inclusion-related activities and incidents impacting the City of Scottsdale**

Mr. Corsette had no items to present. He offered Commissioners an opportunity to speak about diversity and inclusion-related activities.

Chair Drews mentioned that Ms. Johnson sent an invitation to a continuation of the Diversity and Dialogue program, being held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at Scottsdale Community College Indigenous Cultural Center. Registration for the event can be done through the provided QR code.

Vice-Chair Romagnolo reviewed details for the following upcoming events:

- Spotlight on Success, Local Heros Award, hosted by One Community at Sheraton Phoenix Downtown on October 18, 2024. There are three seats available.
- Phoenix Indian Center Silver and Turquoise Ball being held at Talking Stick on October 18, 2024.
- Pride ERG will be participating in the Pride Parade on Sunday, October 20, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Martin Luther King celebration being held at Scottsdale Stadium Field House on January 26, 2025.
- Canal Convergence

**6. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Corsette noted that over the next five or six weeks meetings will be held with Assistant City Manager Greg Caton regarding the draft Legislative Agenda, feedback will be received from other City departments, and discussions with individual City Council members prior to going to the full City Council for approval. The Commission will be kept updated if any changes are recommended.

Future meetings could include:

- Strategic planning session

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER SOMERVILLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER CASON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, CASON, AND SOMERVILLE VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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