



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

**Monday, September 8, 2025**

Community Design Studio  
7506 E. Indian School Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Tina Drews, Chair  
Cynthia Romagnolo, Vice-Chair  
Ashley Adams  
Veronica Aguilar  
Shiry Sapir

**ABSENT:** Muhammad Babur  
Mason Gates

**STAFF:** Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director  
Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager

**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 who wished to speak.

**Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2025**

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2025, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER AGUILAR SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**1. Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding collaboration with Partners for Paiute**

Commissioner Adams introduced Roger Lurie, Chair of the Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) and Chair of Partners for Paiute. She mentioned that he was honored at the Martin Luther King dinner as being the 2025 Diversity Champion.

Roger Lurie and Mary Witkofski, Interim Human Services Director, gave an overview of the HSAC's activities and responsibilities and their relationship with Partners for Paiute. The HSAC advises City staff and City leadership on critical human services, including Scottsdale's senior centers, community centers, career center, food bank, intervention court, family resource center, congregate and home delivered meals, and homeless outreach and prevention services. He noted that the HSAC Commissioners are also members of the Housing Agency Governing Board, which has oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME program, and Community Development Block Grants. Mr. Lurie gave an overview of the various programs the Human Services Department manages.

Mr. Lurie reviewed the history of Partners for Paiute, which offers emergency funding for vulnerable Scottsdale residents and aids with funding for the Paiute Family Resource Center. He noted that City of Scottsdale Human Services case workers vet clients to ensure that their needs are critical emergencies, and within hours the Partners for Paiute members vote via email about funding the requests. Future focus areas for both Human Services and Partners for Paiute are to advocate to increase Scottsdale Cares funding, support human services initiatives, and raise awareness about vulnerable groups. He spoke briefly about the Bridge Housing Program.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Chair Drews noted that some areas that stood out to her as areas where the groups could collaborate were disability and neurodivergent support, the endowment fund with youth programming, and seniors, veterans, and families with a single parent. Discussion ensued about ways in which the two commissions could collaborate. Ms. Witkofski mentioned that the Human Services Department is in the process of consolidating the Paiute Neighborhood Center and Senior Services newsletters into a single newsletter that will highlight nonprofit partners, the HSC, current projects, and raising awareness. Suggestions that were made for collaborating included hosting a podcast, working with the Veterans Advisory Commission, reaching out to the Library, connecting with youth, collaborating at booths during City events and festivals, the Unity Walk, and raising awareness about vulnerable citizens.

## **2. Discussion, recommendations, and possible action regarding the Human Relations Commission's strategic plan**

Chair Drews invited Commissioners to report on their recent outreach efforts.

Vice-Chair Romagnolo said that she spoke with Kristi Huhn-McDonald from the Mayor's Youth Council, and she feels that the group could be a good partner for the Commission. They have an impressive list of activities they are involved with, many of which could align with the Human Relations Commission. Commissioners agreed to invite the Mayors Youth Council to attend a Commission meeting to discuss ways they could collaborate.

## **3. Discussion and preparation for council presentation scheduled for September 30th**

Kelly Corsette, Communications/Public Affairs Director, said that the Human Relations Commission is scheduled for a Council presentation on September 30, 2025. This is the first of what is anticipated to be an annual invitation from the City Council to the chairs of each of the boards and commissions to give a presentation. The City Council's office provided a template that is to be used, and the presentation can be up to five minutes in length. The presentation will include information on the Commission's annual report, strategic plan, and accomplishments. Council members will be given an opportunity to ask questions and give feedback following the presentation.

## **4. Identification of Future Agenda Items**

Future agenda items could include:

- Partnership with Mayor's Youth Council
- Podcast opportunities
- Strategic Plan - Accountability and Metrics

## **Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER SAPIR SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR DREWS, VICE-CHAIR ROMAGNOLO, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, AGUILAR, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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