



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

Monday, February 9, 2026

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

PRESENT: Veronica Aguilar, Chair
Chass Onkst, Vice-Chair
Ashley Adams,
Muhammad Babur (MS Teams)
Mason Gates (MS Teams)
Cynthia Romagnolo,
Shiry Sapir

STAFF: Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager

GUESTS: Oded Kraus, Chief Executive Officer
Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus

Call to Order

Chair Aguilar called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

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

- 1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2026**

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2026, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VICE-CHAIR ONKST SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, BABUR, GATES, ROMAGNOLO, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Presentation, discussion and possible recommendations regarding collaboration with the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus

Oded Kraus, Chief Executive Officer, Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center (JCC), located on the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus, gave a presentation, highlighting services and activities that are offered. He stated that activities and services are available to all ages, from six months old through senior citizens. The JCC is open and welcoming to all, regardless of their lifestyle or religious affiliation. He mentioned that the Scottsdale Police Department has been helpful in dealing with recent antisemitic threats to the JCC community.

Discussion ensued regarding next-step items, including finding ways for the JCC to collaborate with the Human Relations Commission, connecting JCC with the Mayor's Youth Council, partnership opportunities, and promotion of JCC activities and services.

CHAIR AGUILAR MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEXT-STEP ITEMS RELATED TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER. VICE-CHAIR ONKST SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, BABUR, GATES, ROMAGNOLO, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. Discussion and recap of the Unity Walk and MLK dinner

Commissioners who attended gave an update on the Martin Luther King dinner. Ms. Racine explained that although the City provides some funding for the event, the program is hosted by a separate organization. Vice-Chair Onkst indicated that she would be interested in connecting the group with the Greater Phoenix Urban League's young professionals group.

CHAIR AGUILAR MOVED TO APPROVE CONNECTING VICE-CHAIR ONKST WITH THE MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING THEM WITH THE PHOENIX URBAN LEAGUE. VICE-CHAIR ONKST SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, BABUR, GATES, ROMAGNOLO, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Chair Aguilar provided an update on the Human Relations Commission and Mayor's Youth Council participation, representing the City of Scottsdale in the Unity Walk. She hoped that the City of Scottsdale could have more of a presence at the event in coming years. She mentioned that the Tempe Human Relations Commission is interested in connecting with other human relations commissions. She noted that connection with other Valley human relations groups is part of the strategic plan. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that Chair Aguilar reach out to the Tempe HRC to discuss ways that the two groups can collaborate.

4. Discussion, recommendations, and possible action regarding social media and publicity efforts of the Commission

Commissioner Adams suggested that the Human Relations Commission post JCC events on the City's website. Ms. Racine explained that the JCC is not one of the City of Scottsdale's affiliate partners, and there are specific parameters that must be followed for a website posting. The Office of Communications would have to be contacted to determine what the parameters are for posting activities on the website.

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE CONTACTING THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO CONSULT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTING INFORMATION PROMOTING JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS. COMMISSIONER ROMAGNOLO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS BABUR, GATES, ROMAGNOLO, AND SAPIR VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Ms. Racine gave an update on the press release. She said it would be best if it were modified to include a quote from the Commission chair. Once that is completed, it will be reviewed by the City Manager's office for approval prior to being released. Bios will be included with the press release, and the media contact will be listed as the Office of Communications. Ms. Racine advised the Commissioners that, should they repost the article, they should refrain from posting as a Commissioner on their personal social media platforms. Once things are posted on a Commissioner's personal social media and/or email, they could become subject to a public records request.

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

Discussion ensued regarding review of the strategic plan. Commissioners agreed to agendize a work study session to review and refine the strategic plan. Commissioners will arrive prepared with talking points, including ideas for implementation of each item.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future meeting agenda items could include:

- Strategic plan 2026 discussion
- Discuss participating in 2027 Parada del Sol
- Overview of Vice-Chair Onkst's meeting with Mayor Borowski regarding outreach and exposure
- Overview of the Human Relations Commission's mission, including clarification of the Commission's function and purpose

Chair Aguilar noted this was Commissioner Romagnolo's last meeting. Chair Aguilar and Commissioners took turns thanking Commissioner Romagnolo for her years of service.

Commissioner Romagnolo spoke about her experiences being on the Commission for the past three years.

Adjournment

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR ONKST SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, BABUR, GATES, ROMAGNOLO, 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 5:56 p.m.

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