



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

Monday, June 8, 2026

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

PRESENT: Chair Veronica Aguilar, Vice-Chair Chass Onkst, Commissioners Ashley Adams Mahammad Babur, and Kimberly Schramm

ABSENT: Commissioners Mason Gates and Shiry Sapir

STAFF: Will Brooks, Assistant to the City Manager
Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager

Call to Order

Chair Aguilar 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.

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2026

COMMISSIONER ADAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 11, 2026 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER SCHRAMM SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR AGUILAR, VICE-CHAIR ONKST, COMMISSIONERS ADAMS, BABUR, AND SCHRAMM VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. Presentation and discussion of the role of the Scottsdale Police Department including Police Crisis Intervention Specialist and crisis Response Team

Marissa Mueller and Detective Tim Koerner gave a presentation outlining Scottsdale Police Department's Police Crisis Intervention Specialist (PCIS) and Crisis Response Team (CRT). Ms. Mueller reviewed the history of the PCIS, which was founded in 1975 as a volunteer organization and has developed over time to what it is today. She talked about the Police Crisis Intervention Specialist team and Fender the K-9, and the services they provide, noting that all of the members of the team have a masters-degree in their field. She said that the unit works Monday through Friday and team members rotate for a 24/7 on-call availability. PCIS is typically requested to come to a scene by either officers on the scene or by referral. The public is able to call the general line to speak with PCIS staff members about mental health problems they are facing or to access resources.

Tim Koerner, Police Detective, gave an overview of the function of the Crisis Response Team. He explained that the primary function of the CRT is to transport people having a mental health crisis who are being committed involuntarily. CRT is able to take more time to work with the person being picked up if they are resisting, which takes pressure off of patrol officers who are not always trained in that area. Another function of CRT is to go to scenes where there are actively suicidal people in crisis, conduct welfare checks, and accompany social workers as needed.

Detective Koerner noted that the Town of Gilbert and City of Chandler have approached Scottsdale for help in building their Crisis Response Team. He commented that the police department offers Crisis Response Team (CRT) training to police department employees and dispatchers.

Commissioners asked questions throughout the presentation. When asked how the Human Relations Commission can assist with the program, Ms. Mueller suggested that the Commission assist by using their connections to spread awareness about these units and inform people that they are able to request a CRT officer when calling 911. Commissioner Schramm suggested that informative flyers be distributed in areas where there is a high number of calls for service.

3. Consideration and possible adoption of the updated Human Relations Commission's Strategic Plan

Chair Aguilar presented the revised Human Relations Commission's (HRC) strategic plan. Commissioners offered progress updates related to their individual assignments associated with areas of the HRC strategic plan, made suggestions for furthering their mission, and asked clarifying questions about their outreach efforts.

4. Discussion, recommendations and possible action regarding steps to implement the Human Relations Commission's strategic plan

Discussion occurred with agenda item 3.

5. Discussion and possible action to make recommendations to City Council regarding the Human Relations Commission's Mission and Purpose as set forth in City Code

Discussion ensued regarding possible amendments to the Human Relations Commission's mission and purpose statement. Commissioner Schramm and Vice-Chair Onkst each read their proposed purpose statements. Joy Racine, Community Involvement Manager, reminded the Commission that any changes that are made to the purpose statement and the mission statement would be forwarded to City Council as a recommendation. She cautioned that changing the essence of the purpose and mission statements would be more complicated than just changing a few words.

Will Brooks, Assistant to the City Manager, mentioned that during a recent work study session, City Council indicated that they want to have all bylaws come back to City Council for review and approval. Although an item has not yet been agendaized, the Commission should assume that the bylaws be reviewed by City Council in the near future.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Onkst, Mr. Brooks advised that Chair Aguilar and Vice-Chair Onkst can mention that the Commission is working on recommended amendments to the purpose statement, but if asking for her opinion, they should consider having the same conversation with all Council Members individually. He clarified that if they wish to have a discussion and receive feedback on the item, the conversation should be had during a public meeting so as to not violate any open meeting laws.

Commissioners agreed that the proposed purpose statements be given to Chair Aguilar so she can prepare a final draft for consideration during the September meeting.

6. Identification of Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items could include:

- Discussion and possible action on the HRC purpose statement.
- Human Relations Commission strategic plan.
- Presentation on the Human Services department's consideration of an adult daycare program.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026.

Adjournment

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

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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