



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
4:00 PM

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all.

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Erickson at 4:00pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Commissioner Angella Erickson, Commissioner Doug Learmont, Commissioner Amy Blomquist, Commissioner Stephanie Meittunen, Council Representative Molly MacGregor, Commissioner Janet Miller

CITY STAFF: GRPD Chief Andy Morgan and GRPD Captain Kevin Ott

ABSENT: Commissioner Ronald Grossman

PUBLIC INPUT (if anyone wishes to address the Commission):

None

SETTING THE AGENDA: (This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.)

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Learmont to approve the agenda as presented. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

PRESENTATION:

Grand Rapids Police Department Chief Andy Morgan and Captain Kevin Ott came to talk to the Human Rights Commission regarding Homelessness in the City of Grand Rapids. Other support agency representatives were also present to discuss and answer questions regarding homelessness efforts in the City.

Chief Morgan started by stating that the GRPD relies on agencies such as the Crisis Response Team (CRT), Grace House, Kootasca and the Itasca First Call for Help and asked Captain Ott to discuss how

the GRPD responds to homeless situations. Captain Ott went through a couple cases and said that all are different situations and that they partner with many of the agency services and try to do the best they can for the individuals.

Each Agency represented, such as Grace House, First Call for Help and Kootasca spoke of their collaboration and support capabilities with each other as well as the GRPD. There are over 30,000 resources that can be accessed through 2-1-1, the Information, Resource and Referral Phone Service.

APPROVE MINUTES:

1. Approve December 17th, 2025, Minutes

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the December 17th, 2025, Minutes. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

BUSINESS:

2. 2026 Workplan

Fair Housing was added to the 2026 Work Plan along with Stomp on Stigma as well.

3. Ordinance Review/Approval

Commission Chair Erickson reported that she had the Final Ordinance document from the City Attorney, Chad Sterle. There may be a couple small language/grammar changes, but no content change.

Motion made by Council Representative MacGregor, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to approve and adopt the Human Rights Commission Ordinance changes and send to the City Council for approval. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Meittunen, Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioner Miller

UPDATES:

4. Housing

Councilmember Molly MacGregor stated that Fair Housing with Diane Larson had a meeting a couple of weeks ago and they will be meeting again next week. She will have something in February to report.

5. City Council Updates

The City Council re-appointed Councilmember MacGregor to this Commission for 2026. Commission Chair Erickson will reach out to the City Administrator, Tom Pagel, regarding putting the Human Rights Commission on the Council Agenda. Commissioner Miller volunteered to attend as well.

6. Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration

The 14th annual Stomp on Stigma is coming up in May. There is time for the Commission to plan on physically supporting them. Councilmember MacGregor let the Commission know that Story Stitch has a community event coming up on March 17th. Commissioner Miller couldn't attend the last Building Bridges, but plans on attending the next one.

7. Community Foundation

Council Representative MacGregor will touch base with the Community Foundation regarding a 501C3 versus a dedicated fund.

8. Work Groups:

ADA Compliance WG: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson. This is still on the agenda until presented to the City Council.

Interfaith WG: Commissioner Grossman. Commissioner Grossman is absent to give any updates.

Community Engagement/Education WG: Council Representative MacGregor, Commissioners Miller & Erickson. Commission Chair Erickson made a presentation of the Commission's Role at the City of Grand Rapids and gave to the Commission.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

Commission Chair Erickson told the Commission that she received phone calls that ICE was in town. She contacted Chief Morgan and he told her that he did not hear that. She also let the Commission know that she will not be re-applying to be a commissioner.

Michael Goldberg will be at Community Presbyterian Church tomorrow night.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

2. 2026 Workplan
3. Community Foundation

UPDATES:

4. Housing
5. City Council Updates
6. Story Stitch
7. Stomp on Stigma
8. Work Groups:

Community Engagement/Education and/or Internal Collaboration: City Council Representative MacGregor

ADA Compliance: Commissioners Learmont & Erickson

Interfaith: Commissioner Grossman

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman