

# **CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING - CANCELLED AGENDA**

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024  
4:00 PM**

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## ***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.*

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 4:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**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.)

**PRESENTATION:**

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

- [1.](#) Approve Minutes from June 26, 2024

**FINANCIALS:**

- [2.](#) July 2024 Financials

**BUSINESS:**

- [3.](#) 2024 Work Plan
4. Indigenous People's Day
5. GRPD Data Follow-Up/Training
6. Community Volunteers

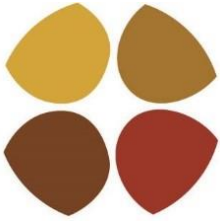
**UPDATES:**

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk
8. Work Group Updates
9. School District Policies

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 26, 2024  
4:00 PM

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## **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.*

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CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, the Human Rights Commission will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 4:00 pm 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 Joan Gunderman  
Commissioner Amy Blomquist  
Commissioner Ronald Grossman  
Commissioner Rick Blake  
Commissioner Katelyn Dokken  
Commissioner Julee Jackson

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Amanda Lussier  
City Liaison, Human Resources Officer, Chery Pierzina

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

Commission Chair Erickson opened up the Public Input. The first speaker stated her name as Dana Butler of 504 NE 4th Ave, Grand Rapids, and is a member of the community and a mental health professional. She stated that she saw many people enjoying themselves and also attended the inter-faith service that was held.

The second speaker stated her name as Alice Moren of DeSchepper Dr, Grand Rapids. She stated that she was grateful, for the event and treated it like any other held in Grand Rapids and that people could express themselves in safety.

The third speaker stated her name as Janet Miller of 416 Hurricane St, a mental health practitioner and stated that it was great to see our community gather in support of each other. Thank you for having the event.

The fourth speaker stated her name as Sandy Schildt of 206 Bay Rd, Coleraine, said that she was proud of Grand Rapids for having the festival on the Central School grounds.

The last speaker, Liz Granholm of PO Box 6025, stated that it was a beautiful day and thanked the Commission for the support. After this speaker, Commission Chair Erickson closed the Public Input.

**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 Commissioner Grossman, Seconded by Commissioner Gunderman to approve the agenda with the addition of agenda item 1A, a Welcome to New Commissioner Julee Jackson. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson**

**PRESENTATION:**

1. Virtual Meeting - Justin Page

The Commission had a virtual meeting with Justin Page, Assistant US Attorney for the State of Minnesota, who enforces Federal Civil Rights Laws. Some typical cases that he investigates are those that involve such things as; service animals, a wide range of ADA, FHA and HUD enforcements, to name just a few. Investigations are not easy and they take time to resolve. Part of his job is also outreach like this meeting to the Human Rights Commission.

1A. The Commission welcomed Julee Jackson to the Human Rights Commission and gave a brief introduction.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

2. Approve May 29th Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to accept the May 29, 2024 minutes with a name correction for Hautala for the 3rd speaker under Public Input. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson**

**FINANCIALS:**

3. No Change to Financials

There were no changes to the financials.

**BUSINESS:**

4. 2024 Work Plan

Discussion from the Work Plan regarding Onboarding, it may be good to schedule something in the near future, since we have had a few new Commissioners. The instruction could be on anything from Protective Classes to Robert's Rules.

The Commission discussed participating in upcoming Community Events on the Work Plan. Such as having an "unmanned" table at the Itasca County Fair or participating in Tall Timber Days or have a banner up at Central School.

The Juneteenth Banners need to be replaced. Commissioner Blake mentioned "All Are Welcome" stickers. Commissioner Erickson will check on the banner replacement and Commissioners Blomquist and Jackson will check on the stickers.

5. Itasca County Fair

Discussion on the Itasca County fair with Lila Crowe, not real keen on having an unmanned Human Rights Commission booth.

6. GRPD Follow-Up on Data/Possible Training

This item will be tabled and moved to the next meeting.

UPDATES:

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk

Commissioner Blomquist said that the Freedom Walk was great and it was a beautiful day. She asked for funding and Commissioner Erickson will check with Attorney Sterle as to whether the Commission can retroactively support the event.

8. Itasca Pride Event

Although some have voiced their opinions that they did not like the event, most opinions and feedback have been good.

9. Work Group Updates

Commissioner Erickson said that Indigenous People's Day is the biggest event the Human Rights Commission supports. They would like to have more connection and collaboration this year.

At the next meeting we will hear more from the Work Groups.

10. School District Policies

Commissioner Dokken will finish up looking at the policies for the next meeting.

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None.

SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

BUSINESS:

4. 2024 Work Plan
5. Indigenous People's Day
6. GRPD Data Follow-Up/Training

UPDATES:

7. Juneteenth Freedom Walk
8. Work Group Updates
9. School District Policies

ADJOURN:

Motion made by Commissioner Gunderman, Seconded by Commissioner Blomquist to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm. Voting Yea: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Gunderman, Commissioner Blomquist, Commissioner Grossman, Commissioner Blake, Commissioner Dokken, Commissioner Jackson

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lyman

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 2024**

	<u>Actual 7/31/2024</u>
<b>Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures</b>	\$ 7,500
Pipe Ceremony	125
Human Rights Commission Posters	19
Blanket Exercise	275
Name Plates	60
Itasca Pride Festival	364
Indigenous People's Day	-
Postage Expense	-
	<u>-</u>
<b>Grants Received</b>	-
<b>Balance Available</b>	<u>\$ 6,658</u>

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## Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission Calendar Year 2024 Work Plan

Prepared in accordance with Commission By-laws, Article 10

2024 QUARTER	GOAL OR ACTIVITY (refer to goal or activity description page for more detail)	ORDINANCE	ACTION TAKEN	EST. COST (See Notes)	ACTUAL
<b>Q1 Jan – March</b>  <i>Possible events/ recognitions: International Women’s Day – Black History Month -</i>	<b>Marketing &amp; Awareness</b> - Press Release - Banner purchase			\$600	
	<b>Creation of New Commissioner Onboarding Process</b> -Programming & Presentations workgroup to define and develop specific training materials or personnel for new and existing Commissioners -Reports at commission meetings to improve knowledge about commission duties, human rights issues, and human rights concerns			\$100	
	<b>Training and Collaboration</b> Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: - Onboarding topic - Presentation + Q&A - Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion - Protected class topic or event - Connect with other commission / department within City			-	
	<b>Collaboration Opportunities for 2024—2025</b>			-	



	<p>Intentional discussion around areas for connecting and collaborating with other organizations, entities, businesses, Commissions, and Departments.</p> <p>Initial suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Women’s Day (March)</li> <li>- Mental Health / NAMI</li> <li>- Homelessness</li> </ul>				
	<b>Development of Juneteenth &amp; Pride Event Task Forces</b>				
	<b>Quarter Total</b>			\$700	
<b>Q2 April – June</b>	<p><b>Training and Collaboration</b></p> <p>Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Onboarding topic</li> <li>- Presentation + Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion</li> <li>- Protected class topic or event</li> <li>- Connect with other commission / department within City</li> </ul>	<p>City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws</p>		\$100	
<i>Possible events/ recognitions: Stomp the Stigma – Mental Health Awareness Month – Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month – LGBTQ+ Pride Month</i>	<p><b>Development of Indigenous People’s Day Event Task Force</b></p> <p>Reminder work group should meet with prior to school summer break and begin conversation on support needed</p>			-	
	<p><b>Support Juneteenth Day Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recognize <i>Freedom Day</i>, including human rights, civil rights, and freedom of discrimination in our community by assisting in public awareness and celebration events</li> <li>-Banner request to city!</li> </ul>	Sec. 2-303(3)		\$2,000	
	<p><b>Support Pride Day Event/s Awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Look for opportunities to be involved in and/or support community events, outreach, or publication</li> </ul>			\$1,000	
	<b>Quarter Total</b>			\$3,100	

<b>Q3 July – Sept</b>  <i>Possible events/recognitions:</i> ADA / Disability Pride month – Hispanic Heritage Month	<b>Training and Collaboration</b> Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Onboarding topic</li> <li>- Presentation + Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion</li> <li>- Protected class topic or event</li> <li>- Connect with other commission / department within City</li> </ul>	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	
	<b>Collaboration Opportunities with City / Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Connect</li> <li>- Fair booth</li> <li>- Tall Timber Days</li> <li>- Neighborhood Block Party</li> </ul>				
	<b>Marketing &amp; Awareness</b> - Press Release				
	<b>2024 Work Plan Review – DUE JULY</b>				
	<b>Quarter Total</b>			\$100	
<b>Q4 Oct – Dec</b>  <i>Possible events/recognitions:</i> (Nov) Native American Heritage Month – International Day of Persons with Disabilities – Human Rights Day	<b>Training and Collaboration</b> Provide at least one (1) of each following area to support growth, development, and collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Onboarding topic</li> <li>- Presentation + Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Current event or “hot topic” item for presentation and discussion</li> <li>- Protected class topic or event</li> <li>- Connect with other commission / department within City</li> </ul>	City code Division 6 Commission Bylaws, including Article Ten		\$100	0
	<b>Indigenous People’s Day</b> Cosponsor activities or publications to further human rights purposes with regard to indigenous people in the city -Don’t forget banner request to City!	Sec. 2-303(1, 3) Article(10)(3, 5)		\$3,000	
	<b>2025 Planning &amp; Budgeting</b> - Include presentation to city council				
	<b>Human Rights Awareness Events - Human Rights Day (Dec 10)</b>	Sec. 2-301		\$500	

	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> -Community Conversations -Possible tie to school collaboration -Possible speakers and presentations - Possible Event	Sec. 2-303(5)			
	<b>Quarter Total</b>			\$3,600	
	<b>2024 Commission Budget</b>	\$7,500			
	<b>Budgeted Expenditures</b>			\$7,500	
	<b>TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</b>				

Notes:

- A. The time needed to organize and arrange the components for many activities will result in most listings involving more than one calendar quarter
- B. The estimated Cost column lists budgeted net cash costs to the City. It does not include contributions made to an activity by a collaborating partner nor an assumed value for donated time or resources by Human Rights commissioners, city administrative staff, or others.

### Summary Description of Goals and Activities

**Improve Human Rights Awareness**

City of Grand Rapids Rules, Division 6 Section 2-301 states that the Commission will take positive measures to disseminate the nondiscriminatory policies of the city with respect to all unfair discriminatory practices by conducting public information meetings. During 2022, the Commission will appoint a work group to develop a plan and conduct one or more activities to improve human rights awareness in the city. Consideration of ways to promote human rights awareness may include improvements to the Human Rights Commission page on the city’s website, updating or developing and distributing new brochures, literature, or pamphlets that create awareness and promote better understanding of human rights with city staff and the broader community, sponsoring speakers or informational and educational events or contests, and promoting Human Rights Day on December 10, 2022. The Commission will also identify other areas in which there is need for making citizens, businesses, organizations, city staff, and institutions aware of human rights concerns and requirements.

**New Commissioner On-boarding:**

Human Rights commissioner terms are for three years. Commissioner terms may be renewed with city council appointment, and normal turnover typically results in one to three new commissioners being appointed each year. To effectively fulfill their roles, commissioners should be knowledgeable about federal and state human rights laws, city ordinances regarding the human rights commission, and human rights commission bylaws. Newly appointed commissioners should also be aware of past actions and activities of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission as well as city council positions and needs related to human rights. The Commission intends to develop a plan and program that would inform newly appointed commissioners, as well as continuing commissioners, of their responsibilities, duties, city policies and relevant administrative procedures, and other aspects. This on-boarding process is to be discussed with a plan and materials developed during 2021 for implementation with newly-appointment commissioners.

**Commissioner Training and Education**

Actions or decisions by the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission to provide freedom from discrimination requires knowledge about the types of prohibited discrimination and ways in which these types of discrimination may occur in employment, housing, real property, public accommodations, public services, education, and unfounded charges (City of Grand Rapids Rules, Division 6 Sec 2-301). The Commission plans to identify and act to identify and support commissioner training opportunities and activities in calendar year 2022. This may include approaches such as outside speakers, presentation or event sponsorship, community meetings, interviews, identifying and sharing of pertinent new articles or reports, and/or in other ways. Commissioner training and education would be an ongoing objective and activity.

**Support Juneteenth Day Event**

The Commission intends to recognize *Freedom Day*, June 19<sup>th</sup>, which includes recognizing freedoms in our nation and community including human rights, civil rights, and freedom of discrimination and creating public awareness of these rights through assisting street-side setting of street banners recognizing these freedoms, posting of United States flags, and co-issuing news media information.

**Gather and Evaluate Demographic Data**

The Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission strives to identify human rights issues of greatest concern in the city, and to develop and implement activities to make improvements in the areas of greatest concern. Achieving this goal requires demographic data about the city population. To gather such data the Commission desires to identify data needs and data sources, analyze the data, and from the data analysis develop plans for Commission activities in the community or recommend city policies to address, mitigate or alleviate those human rights concerns or issues. The Commission intends to review 2020 census data to inform changes in priorities, activities, and recommendations in the city.

**Review human rights educational opportunities with schools**

Schools in Grand Rapids contain their own sets of human rights concerns and opportunities. The Commission intends to explore and begin discussions with the schools in Grand Rapids to look into such possibilities as improving student experiences and understanding of diverse cultures possibly through programs such as pen pal programs with students in other countries, sponsoring an education Summit focused on human rights, or conducting a Human Rights Day event with local school. When an appropriate event is identified, the Commission expects to support such event.

**Indigenous People’s Day**

The Commission was an important factor in establishment of Indigenous People’s Day in Grand Rapids and has continued as a key factor in conducting and sponsoring the annual event as part of creating cultural awareness in the local community. This role is planned to continue in 2022, including establishing a Human Rights Commission Indigenous People’s Day committee to collaborate with other community groups to plan, identify a theme, organize, and conduct an Indigenous People’s Day program and activities.

**Human Rights Awareness Events - Human Rights Day (December 10)**

To improve awareness of human rights in the city, the Commission plans to discuss and review ways to improve awareness of human rights in the city. Committee work is expected to include approaches such as conducting community conversations, identifying ways to tie human rights awareness with the local schools, arranging and sponsoring topical speakers, and/or other means of fostering human rights awareness preferably in collaboration with other groups or entities.

**Notes:**

During the year, adjustments may be made to reflect changes in costs, changes in priorities, changes in format or delivery methods, or identification of human rights concerns that were not identified in compiling the preceding list but which the Commission feels need to be addressed. Examples include:

- a. Possible adjustments could occur due to identifying new or incidental human rights concerns related to protected groups and areas from the [Minnesota Human Rights](#) and other state statutes and regulations:

<b>Protected Classes</b>	<b>Protected Area</b>
<b>RACE</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>COLOR</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>CREED</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, and credit
<b>RELIGION</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, and credit

<b>NATIONAL ORIGIN</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>SEX</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and credit
<b>DISABILITY</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>PUBLIC ASSISTANCE</b>	Employment, housing, public services, education, credit
<b>AGE</b>	Employment and education
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>	Employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business
<b>FAMILIAL STATUS</b>	Employment, Housing
<b>LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIVITY</b>	Employment

b. Adjustments could occur as a result of use of alternative education/training delivery methods such as print, seminars, webinars, speeches, and others