



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 24, 2021  
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, November 24, 2021 at 4:00 PM 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.)

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

- [1.](#) October 27th, 2021 Minutes

**FINANCIALS:**

2. Monthly Financial Balance:

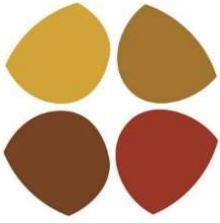
**BUSINESS:**

3. Commission On-Boarding
4. November/December Training Opportunities
5. Report on Work Plan/Financial Update
- [6.](#) Calendar Revision
7. CAT Team/Colored Lines Documentary, Focus on Local Issues

**CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:**

**SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**ADJOURN:**



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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4:00 PM

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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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, October 27, 2021 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers at 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Erickson  
Commission Chair Friesen  
Commissioner Jocelyn  
Commissioner Glen Hodgson  
Commissioner Lopez-Cortes  
Commissioner Learmont  
Commissioner Connelly

Also Present: Police Chief Steve Schaar and City Attorney Chad Sterle

**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.)

- Add Item #12, the acknowledgment of Commissioner Glen Hodgson's resignation
- Add Item #13 handout of the Community Exhibit Proposal.

**Motion to accept the Agenda Additions made by Commissioner Jocelyn and second by Commissioner Learmont, all in favor, motion passed.**

### **APPROVE MINUTES:**

Motion made by Commissioner Jocelyn to accept both the revised August 25th, 2021 minutes and the September 29th, 2021 minutes, second by Commissioner Connelly. All in favor, motion passed.

1. Revised August 25th, 2021 Minutes
2. September 29th, 2021 Minutes

### **FINANCIALS:**

The Indigenous People's Day Event came in under budget but approximately \$1,500 does not show in these financials yet.

3. Monthly Financial Balance: \$7,773.00

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

There was no public input.

## BUSINESS:

## 4. Meet &amp; Greet, New City Police Chief Steve Schaar

Police Chief Steve Schaar was welcomed to the Human Rights Commission. He started the meet and greet by saying that he has been at the City of Grand Rapids for 25 years, has been the Assistant Chief for 11 years, so his transition to being the Police Chief was not terrible. With his moving into this position, there was also much internal movement within the police department and they dissolved two positions. They also hired a new police officer who is currently in training.

He replied to the question of what are the biggest challenges he has come across, as being Covid and especially the changes that have happened in the last two years. The mandatory training that the officers must take has increased in cost.

Previous trainings he has attended such as both the Anishinabe and the Muslim training were very good and he learned more than what he knew previously. Most of the training that they attend comes to them through the Minnesota Chief's Association and due to budget constraints, trainings they sign up for need to be beneficial. They must also attend 48 hours of continuing education which entails everything from every day events to first aid and it is always changing depending on current events happening in society.

Commissioner Learmont stated that working together and having mutual support ie the Workplan for 2022, there are potential opportunities for both parties. The best thing to do is have more collaboration and work together. Commissioner Hodgson agreed that this was a good perspective moving forward.

Police Chief Schaar departed at 4:30pm.

## 5. Commissioner On-Boarding:

Commissioner Erickson handed out a draft copy of the "welcome letter" that will have more clarity, with the Commission's expectations and the number of meetings etc. There is good progress on this.

## 6. Report on Indigenous People's Day Events:

Commissioner Connelly reported that the Indigenous Peoples Day event at the Central School Grounds went well. She estimates that there was approximately 40 to 100 people attending the event. It came together well.

Discussion regarding next year's event, possibly vendors with crafts and maybe collaborate with the Anishinabe Leaders, making it a bigger event. The Commission should also do a work session in June with the Anishinabe Leaders.

## 7. Juneteenth Banner - Response from PW Director/City engineer Matt Wegwerth:

Commissioner Connelly gave PW Director/City Engineer Matt Wegwerth the tagline and logo for the banner.

## 8. Review of Training from Equity Summit and Discuss November/December Training Opportunities

Commissioner Jocelyn was told that at the recent Equity Summit Training, there were 200 people participating and that there is a recorded version of the training. True Tuesday group will be presenting at the Rural Equity Summit being held on Nov 30th and Dec 1st, 2021.

9. Report on Workplan Proposal from the Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 City Council Meeting:  
There was positive feedback regarding the Workplan when presented to the City Council. They appreciated knowing what this commission has been up to.
10. Discussion of Speaker Honorarium:  
Commissioner Friesen stated that she would email Myrna Peterson regarding getting her set-up in the system so she can receive an honorarium for talking to the Commission this summer. City Attorney Chad Sterle stated that the payment should be ratified by the City Council in order for anyone to speak in front of the Commission. At this time it can come out of the budget since the honorarium is not in place. He also said that he would put together a draft policy for the December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Commission meeting.
11. Further Discussion on Monthly Speakers  
Add the Ethnic Calendar into the workplan that Commissioner Jocelyn made.
- Discussed rescheduling the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Commission meeting due to Commissioner Jocelyn not being able to attend. Consensus is not to reschedule at this time even though there needs to be 4 out of 6 for the quorum for the next meeting before Thanksgiving.
12. Added Agenda Item: Glen Hodgson's resignation has already been approved at the October 25<sup>th</sup>, City Council Meeting. The Commission acknowledged his resignation.
13. Added Agenda Item: Community Exhibit Proposal was given out as part of the Commission packet for the meeting today. The Exhibit by Georgia Fort would potentially be at the MacRostie or Central School in December.

How does this fit into the Commission's purpose and objectives? Commissioner Jocelyn stated that it is increasing awareness, its educational, addressing race and it will be an interaction with artists thus advancing the Mission of the Commission.

Commissioner Erickson stated that there is uncommitted funds from the previous year and this could fit anywhere, not taking money from another place.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Jocelyn to approve \$2,500 for the Exhibit Rental Fee for the Community Exhibit by Georgia Fort, in partnership with the MacRostie Art Center, second by Commissioner Connelly, all in favor, motion passed.**

#### CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

#### SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

3. Commissioner On-Boarding
4. November/December Training Opportunities
5. Report on Work Plan/Financial Update
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#### ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Lyman

## Calendar of National Observances of Ethnic Heritage

Month	Topic	Commissioner Lead	Status/Notes
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities		<p>United Nations has established December 3 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to promote an understanding of disability issues, mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities, and foster awareness of the importance of integrating persons with disabilities into every aspect of life.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities">https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities</a></p>
Jan	National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month		<p>Declared by President Obama in 2012.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.state.gov/national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevention-month/#:~:text=January%20is%20National%20Slavery%20and,and%20how%20to%20spot%20it.">https://www.state.gov/national-slavery-and-human-trafficking-prevention-month/#:~:text=January%20is%20National%20Slavery%20and,and%20how%20to%20spot%20it.</a></p>
February	African American Heritage Month,		<p>Est. by President Ford in 1976 as part of America's bicentennial.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history">https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history</a></p>
March	Women's Heritage Month International Women's Day is March 8 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month		<p>Celebrated in the US since 1987.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month">http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month</a>  <a href="https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/march-is-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/">https://www.specialneedsalliance.org/blog/march-is-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/</a></p>
March	Irish-American Heritage Month		<p>First celebrated by proclamation of the President and Congress in 1991. In March to coincide with St. Patrick's Day.</p>
April	National Arab American Heritage Month		<p>Proclamation published by President Biden April 19, 2021, recognizing the holiday.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/celebrating-arab-american-heritage-month-2834493">https://www.thoughtco.com/celebrating-arab-american-heritage-month-2834493</a></p>

			<p>Congressional resolution:  <a href="https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/948/text">https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/948/text</a></p> <p>White House letter on establishment:  <a href="https://web.archive.org/web/20210426035447/https://www.arabamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/White-House.Message-from-President-Biden-to-Arab-America_Mailed-via-USPS-4.21.21.pdf">https://web.archive.org/web/20210426035447/https://www.arabamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/White-House.Message-from-President-Biden-to-Arab-America_Mailed-via-USPS-4.21.21.pdf</a></p>
April	National Deaf History Month March 13 – April 15		<p>National Deaf History Month is celebrated from March 13th through April 15th. Deaf History Month is celebrated at this time of year because of three main events in the history of deaf education. On April 15, 1817, America’s first public school for the deaf was opened. On April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University (the first institution of higher education for the deaf and hard of hearing) was officially founded. On March 13, 1988, Gallaudet University hired its first deaf president.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.aclib.us/kids/blog/deaf-history-month-march-13th-april-15th#:~:text=National%20Deaf%20History%20Month%20is,for%20the%20deaf%20was%20opened.">https://www.aclib.us/kids/blog/deaf-history-month-march-13th-april-15th#:~:text=National%20Deaf%20History%20Month%20is,for%20the%20deaf%20was%20opened.</a>  <a href="https://diversity.fsu.edu/article/deaf-history-month">https://diversity.fsu.edu/article/deaf-history-month</a></p>
April	Autism Awareness Month		<p>American Autism Society is advocating for a change to “Autism Acceptance Month.”</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/">https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/</a>  <a href="https://www.autismacceptance.org/">https://www.autismacceptance.org/</a></p>
May	Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month		<p>Recognized in the US since 1979. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/">https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/</a></p>
May	Haitian Heritage Month		<p>Since 1998, several governors, members of state senates and houses of representatives, mayors and city councilors have issued annual citations and</p>

			<p>proclamations, recognizing the Haitian Heritage Month celebration in their states or cities.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="http://www.hauinc.org/">http://www.hauinc.org/</a></p>
May	Jewish American Heritage Month, proclaimed by President Bush in 2006.		<p>Resources: <a href="https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/about/">https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/about/</a></p>
May	Older Americans Month		<p>Est. in 1963; recognized each year by presidential proclamation. 2021 Theme: Communities of Strength.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021">https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021</a> #OlderAmericansMonth</p>
June	LGBTQ+ Pride Month June 28, 2022 will be Pride Day		<p>First recognized by President Clinton in 1999; 2009-2016 recognized by President Obama; 2019 recognized by President Trump.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/">https://nationaltoday.com/pride-month/</a> <a href="https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/pride-month-2021/">https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/pride-month-2021/</a></p>
June	Juneteenth – Sunday June 19, 2022		<p>Juneteenth celebrates the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas on 19 June 1865.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="https://www.registerguard.com/story/opinion/columns/2021/06/25/don-kahle-how-best-celebrate-juneteenth-2022-and-beyond/5322765001/">https://www.registerguard.com/story/opinion/columns/2021/06/25/don-kahle-how-best-celebrate-juneteenth-2022-and-beyond/5322765001/</a></p>
July			
August			
September	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15 – Oct 1)		<p>Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua all received their independence on September 15; Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept 16 and Sept 18.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="https://www.hispanicheritagemoth.gov/about/">https://www.hispanicheritagemoth.gov/about/</a> <a href="https://www.history.com/topics/hispanic-history/hispanic-heritage-month">https://www.history.com/topics/hispanic-history/hispanic-heritage-month</a></p>
Oct	LGBTQ+ Heritage Month National Coming Out Day is 11 Oct		<p>First celebrated in 1994; timed to acknowledge the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987.</p> <p>Resources: <a href="https://lgbthistorymonth.com/">https://lgbthistorymonth.com/</a></p>

			<a href="https://nationaltoday.com/lgbtq-history-month/">https://nationaltoday.com/lgbtq-history-month/</a>
Oct	National Italian American Heritage Month		Recognized each year by presidential proclamation in recognition of the many achievements and contributions made to American culture by persons of Italian heritage.
Oct	National Disability Employment Awareness Month		Various programs throughout the month headed by The Office of Disability Employment Policy emphasize specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and eliminated. Resources: <a href="https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/celebrate-ndeam/">https://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/celebrate-ndeam/</a> <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam</a>
Oct	Filipino American History Month		Nov 2009 Congress passed resolution H. RES. 780 officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. Resources: <a href="https://emilylawsin.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/fa-history-month.pdf">https://emilylawsin.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/fa-history-month.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.kcet.org/socal-focus/filipino-american-history-425-years-and-counting">https://www.kcet.org/socal-focus/filipino-american-history-425-years-and-counting</a>
Nov	National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.		In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994. Resources: <a href="https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/">https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/</a> <a href="https://www.ncai.org/initiatives/native-american-heritage-month#:~:text=November%20is%20Native%20American%20Heritage,important%20contributions%20of%20Native%20people.">https://www.ncai.org/initiatives/native-american-heritage-month#:~:text=November%20is%20Native%20American%20Heritage,important%20contributions%20of%20Native%20people.</a> <a href="https://www.indianaffairs.gov/as-ia/opa/national-native-american-heritage-month">https://www.indianaffairs.gov/as-ia/opa/national-native-american-heritage-month</a>