



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Monday, March 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM

AGENDA

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, relation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please call 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

Commissioners: Aisha Ali (Chair), Michael Ridgeway (Vice-Chair), Jackie Farley (6 vacancies)

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

ACTION ITEMS

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS
3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHANGES TO HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD CRITERIA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, will meet in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room at the Municipal Building, on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT

Commission Chair Aisha Ali
Commission Vice-Chair Michael Ridgeway

ABSENT

Commissioner Jackie Farley

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Holloman, Accessibility Strategist
Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney
Sarah Encinias, Legal Admin Tech

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present. Chair Ali called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 25, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Ridgeway to approve the Minutes for the November 25, 2024, regular meeting and motion was duly seconded by Chair Ali. A vote was taken with the following results: all approved and none opposed. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 16, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Ridgeway to approve the Minutes for the December 16, 2024, special meeting and motion was duly seconded by Chair Ali. A vote was taken with the following results: all approved and none opposed. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2025, INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Ridgeway to approve the Minutes for the January 11, 2025, Interfaith Breakfast and motion was duly seconded by Chair Ali. A vote was taken with the following results: all approved and none opposed. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

Chair Ali said she has a list/chart that she has created but she has to convert it to a Word document in order to print it and give it to Commissioners. She would like to have proclamations lined out for the year ahead. Chair Ali and Vice-Chair Ridgeway agreed on the goal to have Women's History Month on the Council agenda for March 11 and to have Child Abuse Prevention Month on the Council agenda for March 25. Chair Ali would like to ask Blue Tree to accept the March 25 proclamation. Once she chooses a recipient for Women's History Month, she will let Ms. Holloman know. The item for the Human Rights Award was submitted to the City Clerk for placement on a Council agenda but it has yet to be approved for placement by the Mayor.

5. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE 2025 INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

Chair Ali has gathered the results received so far of the survey that she asked speakers to complete after the breakfast. Once she gets the results printed, she will send them to Ms. Holloman. She said speakers stayed on topic but a few of them went too long and this made the breakfast run late. Overall she received positive feedback and suggestions from responses.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2026 INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

Chair Ali would like to hold the 2026 Breakfast at the NPS Center for Arts and Learning building, 3901 Journey Parkway, to allow for more attendees. The building is the former site of Journey Church and was obtained recently by NPS for fine arts and concerts. She would also like to have the date set as soon as possible to allow for more preplanning. Vice-Chair Ridgeway would like to keep MLK Day open for MLK Day events and have the breakfast on a separate day. Ms. Holloman advised that she received comments from other religions that their faith doesn't allow for Saturday activities but maybe if the Breakfast is planned far enough in advance, this would allow someone from these religions to participate. Ms. Holloman suggested having the next Breakfast on Saturday, January 17th, with a backup date of Monday, January 19, 2026. Chair Ali will check with NPS for availability.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2025 GOALS

Chair Ali would like to begin getting new commissioners as soon as possible once Mayor-elect Holman begins his term. Chair Ali and Vice-Chair Ridgeway will try to schedule a one-on-one meeting with him individually so as not to form a quorum. They would like to address subcommittee goals, mental health issues within the city, and other things that have had to be put on the backburner during previous years.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2025 AWARDS

Chair Ali acknowledged the issue of receiving a nominee for someone that no longer lived in Norman. She would like the award criteria to be changed to allow for the nomination of someone that lived in Norman for 5 years prior to moving. Ms. Snider said this item would have to be listed more specifically on the next Agenda for the change requested. Chair Ali agreed.

Chair Ali said she would also like to push out the application for nominees earlier in the year to allow more time to receive them back and for making the final decision on the nominees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A guest requested to nominate someone for the Human Rights Award and Chair Ali said this hasn't opened for applications just yet. Another guest asked how to receive notices of meetings and he was referred to the online city calendar/meeting tool.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

The City of Norman Human Rights Award

The selection of an individual and/or group recipient(s) in Norman, Oklahoma, of the Human Rights Award is based on exceptional achievement, innovative leadership, outstanding mission, and/or excellence service, to promote human rights and equality, and serve as an example to all.

Eligibility Criteria

Chapter 8 of the Municipal Code of the City of Norman states that it is the policy of the City of Norman that the protection of civil rights is a matter of local concern and that in order to ensure public safety, public health, and the general welfare of all citizens of this community, no individual shall be denied equal protection of the laws, nor shall an individual be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil rights or be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, or marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex. All citizens of this community shall have an equal opportunity to purchase, rent, lease, or occupy housing accommodations; to avail themselves of the full enjoyment of public accommodations; to have an equal opportunity in the job market and the social and economic life of the City; and to reach their full potential as human beings without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, or marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex.

Areas taken into consideration for the City of Norman Human Rights Award:

Achievement(s) - describe successes/results and describe the impact of these achievement(s) to the Norman community.

Innovative Leadership - illustrate the inspiration or motivation given by the person or group, how cooperation is fostered, list the organizations or programs created, community example set and/or innovations undertaken.

Mission - define the person's role within the organization or design/process of the initiative including and not limited to: personal risks taken, time expended, sacrifices made and/or years of service.

Service - describe the support system and/or services provided including the timeliness and recurrence of project/service, ability to replicate project/service, and the overall sustainability of project/services.

Please forward a nomination letter to:

Norman Human Rights Commission
City of Norman
P.O. Box 370
Norman, OK 73070

You may also email your nomination letter to <name>. All nominations must be received by <time> on <date>, to be considered. Please include your name and telephone number as well as the name and telephone number of the nominee. The individual and/or group selected by the Commission will be honored during a City of Norman Council meeting on a date to be determined.

If you have questions about the City of Norman Human Rights Award, please contact <name> at <phone> or <email>.