



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING**  
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room  
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069  
Monday, May 20, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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## **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 contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.*

**Commissioners: Aisha Ali (Chair), Jackie Farley, Chris Nanny, Michael Ridgeway (5 vacancies)**

### **ROLL CALL**

### **MINUTES**

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 26, 2024, REGULAR MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 22, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

### **ACTION ITEMS**

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR
4. CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTING MEETING AND DECORUM RULES FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS AND/OR AMENDING
5. DISCUSSION REGARDING MLK BREAKFAST
6. DISCUSSION REGARDING HRC VACANCIES
7. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL JOINT MEETING WITH OKC AND TULSA HRCs

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING**  
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room  
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069  
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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**MINUTES**

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 West Gray Street on February 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENT

Commission Chair Jackie Farley  
Commission Vice-Chair Aisha Ali  
Commissioner Chris Nanny  
Commissioner Christopher Tall Bear

ABSENT

Commissioner Michael Ridgeway  
Commissioner Stephen Machovic

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Holloman, ADA Technician, Culture & Social Responsibility  
Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager  
Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney  
Sarah Encinias, Legal Admin Tech

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES**

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 27, 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Nanny to approve the Minutes for the November 27, 2023, regular meeting and the motion was duly seconded by Vice-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 JANUARY 24, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Nanny to approve the Minutes for the January 24, 2024, special meeting and the motion was duly seconded by Vice-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 FEBRUARY 17, 2024, INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

Commissioner Nanny asked why attendance roll wasn't taken for the Interfaith Breakfast and why it wasn't mandatory for HRC Commissioners to attend. Mr. Purinton said attending the breakfast wasn't mandatory. At one time, there were discussions with the previous Chief Diversity & Equity Officer to make attendance mandatory but due to the way the City's ordinances are written, it is not possible to make attendance mandatory.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nanny to approve the Minutes for the February 17, 2024, Interfaith Breakfast and the motion was duly seconded by Vice-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. ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Chair Farley opened the floor for discussion and Vice-Chair Ali said she would like to be considered for the position of Chair. Motion was made and Commissioners voted unanimously that Aisha Ali now serve as Chair.

Commissioner Tall Bear volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair. Motion was made and Commissioners voted unanimously that Christopher Tall Bear now serve as Vice-Chair.

### 5. DISCUSSION REGARDING SAFETY OF CITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Commissioner Nanny said she requested this item because she and several other bus riders have experienced negative situations in both the Transit Center and while riding on buses. At the Transit Center, people are smoking on the property, the toilets are backing up, the waiting space is full of people not using the bus, and the building has only one exit. On buses, riders are being harassed by other riders and she witnessed police forcefully remove a rider who was causing a disturbance.

Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager, briefly introduced himself and said this Transit Station is the City's first and was opened in October 2023. The issue of security was not a concern when the facility first opened however it has since come to his attention that it has become an issue. Currently every bus has cameras and when an issue arises, he can go back to the recordings to view incident(s). "No Smoking" signs were put up 2 weeks ago but he realizes this is still hard to enforce. Also, soon after opening, plumbing quickly became a problem. The sewer lines were inspected and it was determined that they had to be replaced. Additionally, paper towels were removed from the restrooms so they wouldn't be flushed and clog the lines, and hand dryers were installed instead. The restrooms are cleaned twice daily. The Transit Station is small and so it has one entry/exit. Sleeping in the facility or in buses is not allowed and riders are not allowed to ride an entire route without getting off.

Mr. Johnson said he can be notified of problems by email or riders can contact Embark by utilizing their contact info contained in the Embark Norman Ride Guide. If he or Embark are notified of issues, then they can work on solutions.

email: [transit@normanok.gov](mailto:transit@normanok.gov) (or visit the following website)  
[normanok.gov/residents-visitors/transit-parking/transit-bus-operations](http://normanok.gov/residents-visitors/transit-parking/transit-bus-operations)

Vice-Chair Ali asked if vaping is considered smoking and Mr. Purinton said yes. Commissioner Tall Bear suggested that the smoking cessation help phone number be posted. Commissioner Nanny clarified that current issues are not with bus passengers but with the homeless. Vice-Chair Ali suggested that 988 info be posted as well and also asked if an emergency phone could be installed at the station. Mr. Johnson said he will implement as many suggestions as possible.

6. DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN EMERGENCY SERVICES AND OKLAHOMA'S 988 MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

Commissioner Nanny had questions regarding the 988 hotline and if it could be used by people who see another person experiencing a mental health crisis. Mr. Purinton said the 988 hotline is not necessarily set up to be a third-party wellness check service; it is a voluntary helpline geared at helping individuals or family members of persons who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Mr. Purinton said 911 and police already refer callers to 988, when possible and appropriate. Commissioner Nanny requested that City staff arrange to have 988 representatives come in person to an HRC meeting to clarify what it is that they do and to have City Council attend.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR UPDATE ON ACCESSIBILITY OF WOMEN'S RESTROOMS IN CITY HALL AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Commissioner Nanny said she requested this item because she has submitted complaints to the City on multiple occasions about how the restrooms in City Hall are very hard to utilize. At this point, Commissioner Nanny feels since the City has been through 3 different ADA technicians from when she first notified the City of the problems, that either her complaints have been lost in the shuffle of new staff or she's being ignored. She feels she has given the City plenty of time to rectify the problem.

Ms. Holloman reintroduced herself to Commissioners and said she is the ADA Technician for the City. Ms. Holloman said she has received all of Commissioner Nanny's complaints and that the restroom was recently corrected by maintenance staff. The soap dispensers were lowered and the doors should now pull open utilizing no more than 5-pounds per square inch in weight. Commissioner Nanny will test the doors and provide feedback to Ms. Holloman.

8. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE 2024 INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

Commissioners said they received feedback from attendees that they were very unhappy with the keynote speaker but that they were happy with the rest of the program. Commissioner Nanny asked if the keynote speaker was vetted and by whom. Vice-

Chair Ali believes he was chosen by previous Culture & Social Responsibility Chief Strategist, Maylon Wesley.

Vice-Chair Ali then said many people expressed their unhappiness to her for not getting an invitation to the breakfast. She said the site Constant Contact was used to send out the invitations and that based on previous experience, she knew it wouldn't work. The emails were flagged as spam by most recipients who never knew to check their spam folders. Others said they didn't get an email at all. Vice-Chair Ali asked that Eventbrite be used for next time. She also mentioned that people were upset that they couldn't just call to reserve seats and that the City should have low tech options for them. She looks forward to making next year's breakfast much better than it was this year.

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK**  
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Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room  
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069  
Monday, April 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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**MINUTES**

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 West Gray Street on April 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the meeting.

**PRESENT**

Commission Chair Aisha Ali  
Commissioner Jackie Farley  
Commissioner Chris Nanny  
Commissioner Michael Ridgeway

**ABSENT**

Commission Vice-Chair Christopher Tall Bear

**STAFF PRESENT**

Grace Holloman, ADA Technician, Culture & Social Responsibility  
Anthony Purinton, Assistant City Attorney  
Sarah Encinias, Legal Admin Tech

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES**

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 26, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Nanny requested time to submit her own amendments to the Minutes that more accurately described the intense importance of item #5 and her emotional toll as she felt the Minutes left this out. She will submit her suggested amendments at the next meeting for a vote by the Commission.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 25, 2024, REGULAR MEETING

Motion was made by Commissioner Ridgeway to approve the Minutes for the March 25, 2024, regular meeting and the motion was duly seconded by Commission Farley. A vote was taken with the following results: all approved and none opposed. The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 3. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL FUTURE PRESENTATION REGARDING OKLAHOMA'S 988 MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

Chair Ali requested that this presentation be rescheduled for the next Human Rights Commission meeting on May 20, 2024, since the presentation originally scheduled for March had to be cancelled due to not having a quorum.

### 4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTING MEETING AND DECORUM RULES FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS AND/OR AMENDING

Chair Ali suggested the Commission follow Robert's Rules for meeting decorum. She especially would like members to not talk over one another but to take turns when speaking so all can be heard. Mr. Purinton suggested that the HRC Bylaws be modified to incorporate specific rule changes. Chair Ali will work with Commissioner Ridgeway for suggested changes and to present them at the next meeting.

### 5. DISCUSSION REGARDING HRC VACANCIES

Chair Ali received conflicting information from City staff and representatives regarding the appointment of new commissioners for the HRC. Chair Ali said she intended to enlist the help of fellow Commissioner Tall Bear and both would try to speak to the Mayor personally. She will report findings at the next HRC meeting.

### 6. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMISSIONERS SHARING TASKS

Chair Ali announced her intentions to form subgroups of commissioners to handle yearly tasks, such as initiatives, HR Award, Interfaith breakfast planning, etc. She also wishes to table this subject until after she is able to speak with the Mayor regarding item 5 as the formation of subgroups would require more people to be in the HRC.

### 7. ADA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Ali asked Commissioner Nanny to announce updates but Commissioner Nanny was not aware that she would be giving the update, so no updates were given. Commissioner Nanny asked about the restroom doors of City Hall and Mr. Purinton said he was able to speak to City Maintenance staff and witness the measurement in person. Mr. Purinton verified he witnessed the doors test result at 5-pounds per square inch. Grace Holloman, ADA Technician, also said maintenance staff will now re-evaluate the doors on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Nanny said she tested the doors herself and noticed no measureable difference in their difficulty to open. She stated she would gather members from the ADA Committee she serves on to test all doors and make self evaluations. Chair Ali suggested if Commissioner Nanny remains displeased at the results, she can submit her complaint to the HRC. Mrs. Holloman asked that ADA issues remain with the ADA Committee and that Mr. Nelson be contacted regarding the same as he is the chair person for the ADA Citizen's Advisory Committee.

## 8. DISCUSSION REGARDING MLK BREAKFAST

Item 2.

Chair Ali said she still has the results from the surveys received after the interfaith breakfast in February but still has to compile them for presentation to the HRC. She will work on this and email them to City staff for forwarding to HRC Commissioners.

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Ridgeway suggested removing Miscellaneous Comments from the agenda in order to avoid Open Meetings Act violations. Commissioner Farley suggested changing it to Announcements similar to what is listed on City Council agendas. Mr. Purinton said the change would be implemented on the next agenda.

Mr. Purinton announced that a new Legal Department liaison would be assigned to the Commission next month. He also stated that City Council is about to resume consideration of updates to the City's Boards and Commissions ordinances, which may impact the HRC. He drew attention the Children's Rights Commission and their history, as that Commission has not been active and will be formally removed from the City's ordinances. He suggested that the HRC take a more active approach to its mission to avoid similar issues. The Commissioners expressed renewed interest in a joint meeting with OKC and Tulsa's human rights commissions, and wanted discussion at the next HRC meeting where the item can be listed specifically on the agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.