



**CITY OF NORMAN, OK**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING**  
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room  
201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069  
Monday, April 28, 2025 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 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 MARCH 24, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

### **ACTION ITEMS**

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO FINALIZE PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025
3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NOMINATION CRITERIA OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**



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## **MINUTES**

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room at the Municipal Building, on Monday, March 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 FEBRUARY 24, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Ridgeway to approve the Minutes for the February 24, 2025, 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.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

Chair Ali was unable to make a print copy of her suggestions so she will send an email copy to Ms. Holloman. She and Vice-Chair Ridgeway are trying to obtain a meeting with Mayor-elect Holman so they can speak to him about this topic as well. Chair Ali said the most recent suggestions for proclamations were approved and she was contacting recipients to accept them.

Chair Ali and Vice-Chair Ridgeway jointly recommended a proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month in April. They also recommended a proclamation for World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development in May. Ms. Holloman said she would submit the request.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHANGES TO HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD CRITERIA

Vice-Chair Ali requested to expound on the requirement or non-requirement that a nominee be a resident of Norman. Chair Ali wanted to clarify that the nominee had to have provided impactful work in Norman specifically. Also, Chair Ali wanted to set a date certain for the press release announcing the opening of nominations. She said if the press release was done September 1st, it would give the HRC two (2) months to thoroughly review nominations and to vote on them. Additionally, she would also like the criteria to be permanently posted on the City's HRC webpage.

Vice-Chair Ridgeway sent suggested criteria edits to City staff by email. Staff will then incorporate the edits into the original document and submit them to HRC commissioners for possible final approval at their next meeting. Staff will also double check the form-fill application to be sure it works properly when released to the public.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ali said the 2024 Human Rights Award winner will be on Council's agenda for presentation in July.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

## Human Rights Commission Proclamation & Recognition Month by Month

Item 2.

Month	Event	Plan By	Council Date	P/R	Received By	Other Event	Council Date	P/R	Rec. By
January	Human Trafficking Prevention Month	Nov/Dec		P	• New in 2026	MLK Day?		P?	• New in 2026
February	Black History Month	January		P	• 25'-Hendersons & Dr Long • 24'? • 26' Potentials	n/a			• n/a
March	Women's History Month	February	3/11/25	P	• 25'-21 NHS Girls BB Team • 26' Potentials: Ce	International Women's Day (3/8/25)		P	• New in 2026
April	Child Abuse Awareness Month	March	3/25/25	P	• 25'-Exchange Club of Norman	Sexual Assault Awareness Month	3/25/25		• n/a
May	Mental Health Awareness Month	April	4/13/25	P?	•	World Day for Cultural Diversity (5/21) Older Americans Month National Mobility Awareness Month	4/13/25	P?  R R	•
June	LGBTQ Pride Month	May		R?	•	Juneteenth		P?	•
July	Disability Pride Month/ADA Anniversary?	June		P	•	n/a			• n/a
August	n/a	July			•	World Humanitarian Day (8/19)		R	•
September	Hispanic Heritage Month Suicide Prevention Month	August		P P	•	International Day of Peace (9/21)		R	•
October	Domestic Violence Awareness Month National Bullying Prevention Month	Sept		P P	•	National Disability Awareness Month		R	•
November	Native American Heritage Month	Oct		P	•	World Kindness Day (11/13) International Day of Tolerance (11/16)		R R	•
December	Universal Human Rights Month	Nov		P	•	Human Rights Day (12/10)		P	•

## ANNOTATED VERSION

### 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.~~

The Human Rights Award is given for exceptional achievement, innovative leadership, outstanding mission, and excellent service to promote human rights and equality in Norman, Oklahoma, and serve as an example to all. Individual or group recipients must have lived in Norman within the three (3) years preceding nomination.

### 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

**ANNOTATED VERSION**

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>.

## CLEAN VERSION

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