



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING **APPROVED**

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers
Urbana City Hall
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ann Panthen, Chair; Shalini Smith, Vice Chair; Peter Resnick; Vahagn Chiflikyan; Adam Ruggieri

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Carla Boyd, Human Rights and Equity Officer;
Tom Unzicker, Human Rights Specialist

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ann Panthen called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The Recording Secretary took the roll. A quorum was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Panthen asked for any additions to the agenda. There were none.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 21, 2026

Peter Resnick moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Shalini Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Receipt of Automatic Two-Year EEO Certification**

Shalini Smith announced the names of three companies receiving automatic approval this month:

- Rahn Equipment

- Spittler Excavating
- NPOP Inc

2. Consideration of EEO Workforce Statistics

Ms. Panthen introduced consideration of the applications from companies needing approval by the commissioners for EEO Certification. Ms. Smith moved to certify the following three companies for specific terms of approval by the commission:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Davis-Houk Mechanical, Inc. | 2 years |
| • JPMorgan Chase | 2 years |
| • Schaefer Plastics North America, LLC | 2 years |

Peter Resnick seconded the motion. Ms. Panthen invited discussion.

Mr. Resnick pointed out the need to continue watching the situation with staffing through union labor by Davis-Houk. He also noted the ongoing review of labor issues in general by the commission and staff.

With no additional discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

H. OFFICER'S REPORT

Carla Boyd shared her monthly report. Highlights included:

- Status of complaints and referrals made
- Juneteenth events took place here at City Hall earlier today. Dr. Bobby J. Smith II, of the University of Illinois provide the keynote speech on "The Food Story of Juneteenth". Ward 4 Council Member Verdell Jones III provided his personal reflection. Food trucks were outside for guests to purchase food.
- She pointed commissioners to the back page of the "Juneteenth: Reflection and Reverence" program for information about other Juneteenth events occurring in the area this week
- There is still time for commissioners to register to attend the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies conference in August
- Welcoming Week occurs September 10th-19th in Urbana. Plans are in development with details still ahead.
- The Office of Human Rights and Equity is beginning to develop some additional community engagement activities beyond Market at the Square and Neighborhood Nights. More details still ahead.

Moments in Human Rights History

- June 16, 1858. U.S. Senate candidate Abraham Lincoln declares, "A house divided against itself cannot stand". Lincoln lost that election, yet voters elected him President of the United States two years later.
- June 16, 1873. President Ulysses Grant declares a portion of Oregon reserved for the Nez Perce, where the native peoples had lived for thousands of years. Two years later, Grant gave in to political pressure and rescinded his order. Eventually the U.S. Cavalry forced the Nez Perce to relocate first to Kansas and then to Oklahoma.
- June 16, 1913. South Africa passed the Native Lands Act, restricting native Africans from purchasing or leasing land.
- June 16, 1944. South Carolina executes 14-year-old George Stinney, Jr. by electric chair. A court vacated the sentence in 2014, when it determined the teen had not received a fair trial.

- June 16, 1963. Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space aboard Vostok 6. The spaceship made 48 orbits in 71 hours.
- June 16, 2012. 49 years to the day later after Vostok 6, Liu Yang becomes the first Chinese woman in space aboard Shenzhou 9

Commissioners Follow Up:

- Mr. Resnick asked for an update on developing an application for labor unions. Tom Unzicker explained that an update to the application for vendors and contractors will occur first. Then that new document will become a template to draft an application focused on labor.
- Ms. Panthen requested the addition of a “Commissioners Input” section as part of the monthly meeting agenda
- Mr. Resnick highly recommended a column in the News Gazette by Rev. Terrance Thomas about Juneteenth. Ms. Boyd reported she had also received a copy of a Juneteenth column by Wendy Turner.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This commission has four openings. Apply to the mayor’s office and find an application online.
2. Next HRC meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Ms. Panthen adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Unzicker

Recording Secretary