



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Meeting Summary
May 1, 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Commission Members Present:

Hamadi Jackson, Chair; Kelsey Murray, Vice Chair; Laura Fouts; Joaquin Lara Midkiff; Lisa Novak; Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen; Robert Marshall; Kaitlin Strathdee

Guests Present:

Approximately 55 persons, names not comprehensively captured

Staff Present:

Gretchen Bennett, Lt. Robert Dowd

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Review of Agenda

Vice Chair Murray welcomed the group and noted we will forego introductions in the interest of time. The YouTube channel transmission/recording was noted. Vice Chair Murray initiated a discussion about how much time the Commission can allot to public comment this evening. Estimates were taken at the entrance of the in-person and Zoom spaces as to the number of people wishing to provide public comment.

Commissioner Marshall moved that people who are new to commenting would have three minutes and people who have provided comment before would have two minutes. Commissioner Novak seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Murray noted for people to please keep to the allotted time. She asked people to please keep this room respectful. She noted there are a lot of valid feelings and to please respect when someone is providing comment to please keep one's own comments to oneself.

2. Public Comment

Public Comment related to Gaza received from (*apologies for any errors in name spelling*): Joel; Peggy McGuire; Maxine; Max Moren; Rabbi Perlstein; Jessica Rayfield; Julia; Jacob; Todd Dizan; Evan; Allyssa Coken.

Nine additional new speakers not previously known to the commission expressed interest. The Commission continued public comment and heard from: Finn; Farah; Vayed; David Cline; Marvin Satis; Rev. Robyn Lund; Mesley and Savannah.

Then, public comment was provided from people who had previously provided comment. The Commission heard from: Zander; Taylor; Jordan; Shawnn; Jessenya Salinas (who noted a petition with over 233 signatures); Sabrina, and Enam Bustami. Rabbi Herb also provided a brief announcement.

3. Action and/or Discussion Items: Statement related to cease fire in Gaza

Vice Chair Murray facilitated discussion amongst commissioners about a cover letter and a draft resolution. Drafts were considered, section by section. Vice Chair Murray asked that members of the public not join in discussion unless called upon by the Commission, as the Commission wished time. Commissioners thanked people for being here and providing information, appreciating it is a difficult and emotional issue.

Edits on a draft resolution recommendation were captured, discussed, and read aloud for common understanding. Chair Jackson moved approval of the resolution recommendation as read. Commissioner Lara Midkiff seconded the motion. Vice Chair Murray facilitated a roll call vote; all Commissioners present voted aye and the motion to approve the resolution recommendation was unanimously approved.

Edits on a cover letter were captured, discussed, and read aloud for common understanding. Chair Jackson moved approval of the cover letter as read. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion. Vice Chair Murray facilitated a roll call vote; all Commissioners present voted aye and the motion to approve the cover letter was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Ostrand-Ponsioen spoke of the difficulty of this discussion, noting she does not like that some do not feel safe. Discussion ensued about coalition building locally, and repair of trust that has been damaged, and relationship building, all being necessary. The Commission discussed a desire to look at process and to identify improvements.

Vice Chair Murray and Chair Jackson thanked everyone and encouraged people to stay involved.

Minutes respectfully provided by Gretchen Bennett.