

# Minutes

## Human Relations Commission

### September 13, 2022

Minutes of the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Held both In-Person & Virtually: Tempe Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282 & Microsoft Teams at the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or by telephone: +1 480-498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll), Conference ID: 282 906 814#

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Melissa Farling  
Rabbanni Furqaan  
Jana Lynn Granillo  
Candyce Lindsay  
William Ortega  
David Reynolds (left early)  
Joe Rojas  
Peggie Simmons (arrived late)  
Hugo Tapia  
Kate Vawter

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Michelle Donati-Grayman

**City Staff Present:**

Ginny Belousek, Equity & Inclusion Manager  
Megan Hutchison, Executive Assistant to CMO

**Guests:**

Jared Zucker, City of Tempe Police Officer  
Nate Boulter, Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking  
Stacey Sutherland, Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking

**Call to Order**

Chair Tapia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Alexandria Cullen, ASU student here for a school project.

**Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Minutes: HRC – August 9, 2022**

Motion made by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the minutes of August 9, 2022; Second by Commissioner Rojas. Motion passed on an 8-1-0 vote. Ayes: Chair Tapia, Vice Chair Ortega, and Commissioners Melissa Farling, Rabbani Furqaan, Jana Lynn Granillo, Candyce Lindsay, David Reynolds, and Joe Rojas. Abstains: Commissioner Kate Vawter. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioners Michelle Donati-Grayman and Peggie Simmons.

**Agenda Item 3 - Human Trafficking presentation – Sgt. Lilliana Duran**

Ginny Belousek provided a recap on the presentation that had been given during the August HRC meeting regarding Human Trafficking. Chair Tapia then turned the floor over to the presenters to introduce themselves. Stacey Sutherland, Nate Boulter, and Jared Zucker introduced themselves to the Commission. They let the Commission know that human trafficking does indeed happen in Tempe. It can

happen anywhere since anyone, and everyone, is susceptible. Today's youth are being groomed through social media and wherever there is chat capability, there is an opening to be trafficked. It is important to teach kids about internet safety and to educate parents to understand the signs. They offer several options when it comes to prevention through training and education: A guide for parents can be found on their website, [www.trustaz.org](http://www.trustaz.org), they are currently working on an internet safety brochure for parents and kids, they offer safety training with kids that does not go into detail about sex, and a parent and child over 12 training at the school that will include information about sex. They have recently done training for all the security personnel at Tempe Union High School District, for several local Tempe hotels, and the entire Tempe CARE7 staff. The training is free and will help people recognize the signs of human trafficking and encourage it to be reported. They have found that even the individuals being trafficked do not recognize it is happening to them. Through manipulation, victims often believe everything has been their choice. Many victims are groomed to believe they are in love with their trafficker and these acts are a sacrifice they are willing to make for their relationship. Other victims are finessed into the lifestyle with promises of fame and fortune. Traffickers will blast emails to random girls talking about how beautiful they are and how they can make them famous if they go away with them. The goal is to isolate them from everything they know and use that to manipulate them in to making that choice. Also, some victims are even trafficked by their own families. We ask every victim we encounter what can be done to get them out of the lifestyle. The answer is always the same, nothing. They are so psychologically connected with their trafficker that they must hit their version of rock bottom before they will make a change. We cannot force them to leave the lifestyle, but we are there when they are ready. They then opened the floor to questions from the Commission.

The Commission asked if a higher number of victims have drug and/or alcohol abuse issues after being victimized. They informed the Commission that the rates are comparable to those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after returning from war. There is also a lot of lingering trauma, homelessness, and those engaging in survival sex.

The Commission then asked if there are any statistics available regarding human trafficking. They let the Commission know that there are four nationally recognized trafficking crimes: Gangs, Familial, Independent, and Sex Buyers. They also let the Commission know that the adult buyers are about 5% of the population. That translates to about 1 in 20 men. Kid buyers are harder to define since they are under reported and are on a whole other level. They also let the Commission know that the City of Flagstaff has been tracking this data since 2017. They have discovered it is difficult to track as most of the crime is done underground. For example, they have reported 600 victims and 0 investigations done by PD. This shows it is very challenging to get numbers. They are currently endorsing a new program, CEASE City, that will empower them against sexual exploitation. The City of Phoenix is in process and the City of Scottsdale has successfully completed the program.

The Commission inquired about getting information regarding all the programs, trainings, and education available to see what they could do to help. They will provide that information to Ginny Belousek.

The Commission thanked them for their time and information provided.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – 2050 General Plan update – Commissioner Simmons**

Chair Tapia turned the floor over to Commissioner Simmons and Lynn Granillo. They let the Commission know that they had their last 2050 General Plan meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, and that meetings will be held twice a month until 2024. During their August 16 meeting they worked on setting goals and strategies that will be add to the 2040 plan. Some of the items discussed were educating the community to preserve historic homes, expanding upon the relationship with Tribal Groups, encouraging interregional coordination with Tempe's border cities, and housing statistic in Tempe. They are still in the beginning of the process and are looking forward to the public input portion of the plan.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Diversity Office update – Ginny Belousek**

Ginny Belousek let the Commission know that Velicia McMillan Humes has been hired as the new Chief Diversity Officer and her first day will be Monday, October 17, 2022. Ginny then let the Commission know that the Unity Walk will once again be held in the same manner as it was in 2019 with an in-person event.

**Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

Chair Tapia let the Commission know that there were no items discussed earlier in the meeting. He then opened the floor for recommendations. Items are: Discuss Project with Tempe Union High School District, Proposal for Human Trafficking update, 2050 update, Invitation to Clifford Moon – TUHSD Coordinator of Diversity & Inclusion for November meeting, and Right to Breathe for November meeting. Chair Tapia let the Commission know that if they have any additional items, they would like added to future agendas, they should contact Ginny Belousek or Megan Hutchison.

**Agenda Item 7 – Upcoming Meeting – Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2022

**Motion made by Commissioner Vawter to adjourn the meeting**

**Second by Commissioner Lynn Granillo**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

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Prepared by: Megan Hutchison

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Reviewed by: Ginny Belousek