

Meeting Minutes

Human Relations Commission

Regular Meeting

September 17, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers Conference Room
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ 85225



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ramirez at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Vice Chair Betty Ramirez
Commissioner Omar Rodriguez
Commissioner Erica Maxwell
Commissioner Pamela Morris
Commissioner Joacim Mattison
Commissioner Jevan Bremby
Commissioner Tony Pham
Commissioner Shauna Risinger

Staff Attendance

Niki Tapia, DEI Officer
Leah Powell, Deputy City Manager
Commander Dan Shellum, Chandler Police
CC Cantabrana, Management Assistant

Commissioners Absent

Chair Kriti Agarwal
Commissioner Kent Lane
Commissioner Garry Ong

Scheduled and Unscheduled Public Appearances

None

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Commissioner Mattison made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 20, 2025. Commissioner Risinger seconded the motion. All in favor of approving the meeting minutes. (8-0)

Action Agenda

Commissioner Mattison made a motion to approve the updated 2025 meeting dates, seconded by Commissioner Morris. All in favor of approving the updated 2025 meeting dates. (8-0)

Discussion

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Updates

Niki Tapia introduced Leah Powell, Deputy City Manager for the City of Chandler, to the group. Leah brings extensive experience in local government leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement, and she provides executive oversight to several city departments, including those focused on neighborhood resources and community connection.

Tapia also shared an important update regarding the division's upcoming name change—from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) to Connection & Impact. While the name is evolving, the mission remains the same: to foster meaningful relationships, inclusive engagement, and equitable opportunities throughout Chandler. Tapia emphasized that the Mayor and City Council remain supportive of this work and the division's ongoing efforts. This transition reflects the evolution of DEI within the city and the strong foundation already established through years of thoughtful, impactful initiatives.

HRC Goals, Accomplishments and Next Steps.

The commission discussed the results of the recent HRC Retreat. The retreat, facilitated by Taylor Ducklow, was held on June 11 and August 20, focused on team building, helped clarify the HRC's mission and responsibilities, and developed commission-led goals. Commissioners identified two key priorities—Internal Infrastructure and Community Outreach & Support—to strengthen internal communication, accountability, and community engagement. Immediate next steps include increasing meeting frequency, creating outreach materials, and collecting community data to guide future efforts. Recommendations emphasized starting with achievable goals, delegating tasks effectively, and maintaining accountability to ensure continued progress and measurable community impact.

Chandler Police Department Updates

Commander Dan Shellum shared that the Chandler Police Department continues to support the community and emphasized the importance of residents understanding that immigration enforcement is not handled by Chandler Police, but by federal agencies. He reaffirmed the department's ongoing commitment to public safety and to maintaining strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies.

Member Comments/Announcements

Calendar

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6 p.m., at the ASU Chandler Innovation Center located at 249 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ 85225.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

CC Cantabrana, Recording Secretary

Betty Ramirez, Vice Chair