

NOTICE AND AGENDA

COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY AWARENESS
WEDNESDAY
MAY 15, 2026

[VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING](#)
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
1:30 P.M.

To participate in the meeting virtually use the following link:

[Join the Meeting Online](#)

The public can join the meeting to provide public comment. Please notify Georganna Staskey georganna.staskey@flagstaffaz.gov if you need any assistance joining the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**

NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

MANNY HERNANDEZ, CHAIR
SANDRA DARLING, VICE CHAIR
CARMENLITA CHIEF

SILINA MARTINEZ
JUSTIN MALLET
ANGELICA SANCHEZ

3. **Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgment**

MISSION STATEMENT

A commission to foster support, respect, awareness and appreciation of diversity among all citizens of Flagstaff.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Commission on Diversity Awareness humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.

4. **Upcoming Opportunities and Announcements**
5. **Open Call to the Public**

The Commission cannot act upon items presented during the Public Participation portion of the Agenda. Individual Commission members may ask questions of the public but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item is officially placed on the Agenda. Each public comment or presentation will be limited to four (4) minutes.

6. **Discussion Items**
 - A. Presentation from staff on renaming Columbus Avenue
 - B. Planning and Coordinating for Pride and Juneteenth 2026 events
7. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Minutes of the April 17, 2026 meeting.
8. **Action Items**
 - A. Discussion and possible action regarding the June and July meetings
 - B. Discussion and possible action regarding nominating Vice Chair Darling to the Multicultural County Park Sculpture Exhibition selection panel.
9. **Reports**
 - A. Updates from Working Groups
 - i. Rainbow Crosswalk Update
 - ii. Library Working Group
 - B. Updates from Council Liaison
 - C. Updates from Staff Liaison
10. **Informational To/From Commissionmembers/Staff and Future Agenda Item Requests**
11. **Adjournment**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Chris Rhode, Special Programs Manager



Commission on Diversity Awareness

6. A.

From: Georganna Staskey, Deputy City Clerk

DATE: 05/15/2026

SUBJECT: Presentation from staff on renaming Columbus Avenue

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

Presentation

Columbus Avenue Renaming Discussion

May 19th, 2026





Columbus Ave. Renaming Discussion

- **January 26, 2026 Council Meeting**

- Several residents spoke in favor or renaming Columbus Ave. due to its negative connotation to the Native Community.
- Hozhóóné, meaning “beauty, harmony, and balance was a recommended name.

- **February 17 2026 Council Meeting**

- Future Agenda Item Request: A Citizen Petition Titled “Changing the name of Columbus Ave. to an Indigenous representative name”.
- Michele John spoke on behalf of students from the Kinsey Elementary School and Flagstaff High School’s Native American Club to request that Columbus Ave. be renamed to something more appropriate and reflective of the Native Community.

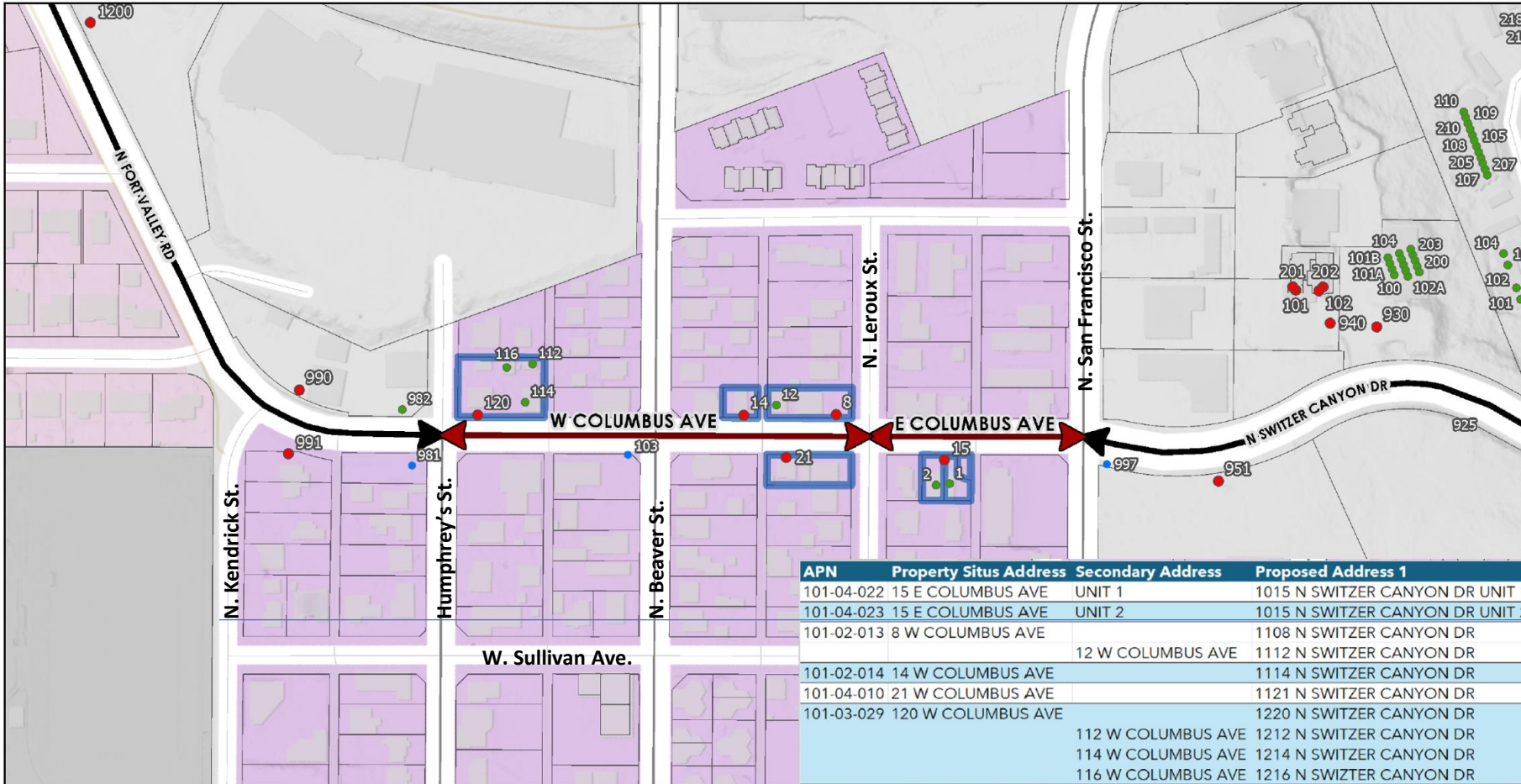


Columbus Ave. Renaming Discussion



Staff Research

- 6 affected parcels
- 10 address changes required



COLUMBUS AVE PROPOSED RENAMING EFFECTED PROPERTIES



- Parcel Primary Address
- Secondary Address
- Utility Only Address
- Effected Parcels



Columbus Ave. Renaming Discussion

Street Remaining Process

1. Residents/Owners file a change request with Addressing. Including the reason for change and a new proposed street name
2. Addressing will then:
 1. Evaluate how many addresses will be affected by the change and communicate this to the parties requesting the change.
 - i. The parties requesting the change will need to reach out to other residents/businesses that will be affected by the change (GIS can provide mailing addresses for internal customers if need)
 2. Contact Emergency Response if the issue could affect their ability to respond.
3. To move forward with the street name change after it is approved internally (through Council, emergency response, Planning & Development Services or other legal channels).

Addressing will:

 1. File a street name approval form which will be sent to 911, County and the Postal Service for approval.
 2. Update Streets data with the approved street name
 - i. Provide Public Works a sign list with names and address ranges for sign replacement
 1. Re-address the addresses on the street
 - i. Send out documentation for property owners
 - ii. Inform County, Utilities and 911 about the address changes
 - iii. Leave a 60-day window for property owners to change personal files before decommissioning the old addresses

Note: Affected property owners should be made aware of potential street name change as it will affect personal mailing materials, property address numbers, etc.



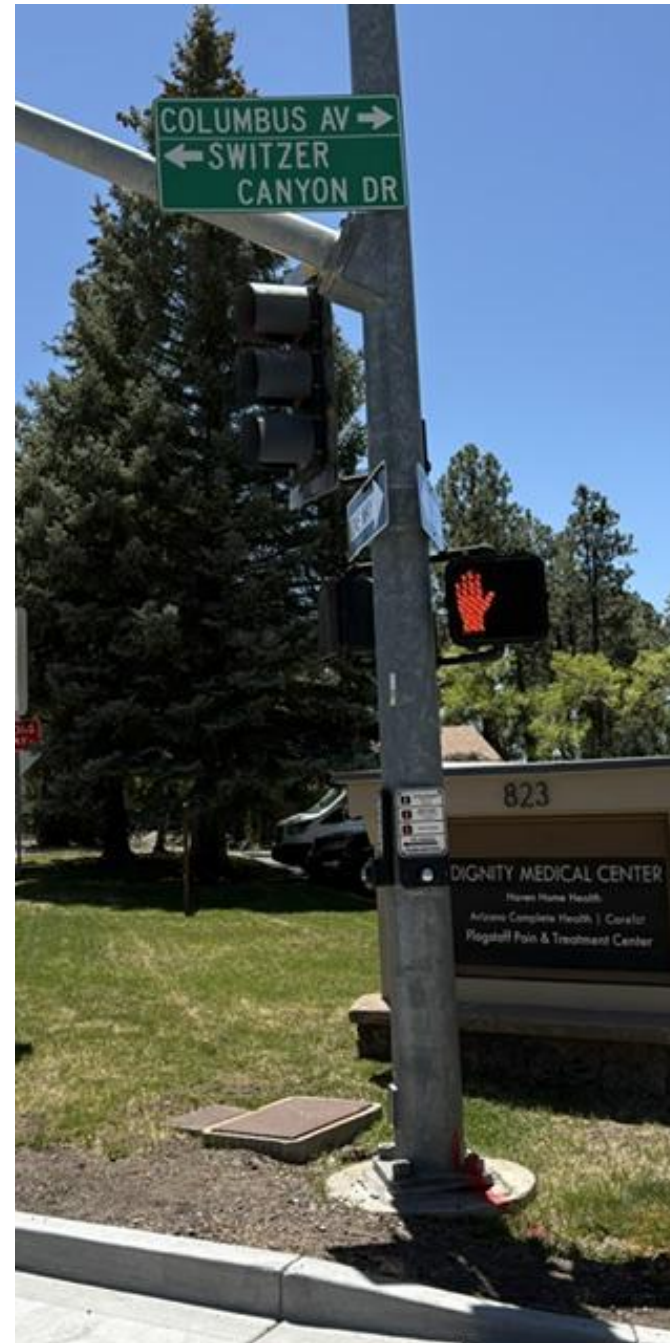
Columbus Ave. Renaming Discussion

Staff Recommendation

- If City Council desires to rename Columbus Avenue, it is Staff's recommendation to rename the street to Switzer Canyon Drive to provide conformity of street names in the area.



Questions?





Commission on Diversity Awareness

7. A.

From: Georganna Staskey, Deputy City Clerk

DATE: 05/15/2026

SUBJECT: Minutes of the April 17, 2026 meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

Minutes

DRAFT

Minutes

COMMISSION ON DIVERSITY AWARENESS
WEDNESDAY
APRIL 17, 2026

STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM
211 WEST ASPEN AVENUE
1:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Manny Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:33pm

2. Roll Call

NOTE: One or more Commission Members may be in attendance telephonically or by other technological means.

MANNY HERNANDEZ, CHAIR Present
SANDRA DARLING, VICE CHAIR Present
CARMENLITA CHIEF Absent

SILINA MARTINEZ Present
JUSTIN MALLETT Present
ANGELICA SANCHEZ Present

3. Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgment

Chair Hernandez read the Mission Statement and Commissioner Sanchez read the Land Acknowledgement.

MISSION STATEMENT

A commission to foster support, respect, awareness and appreciation of diversity among all citizens of Flagstaff.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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4. Upcoming Opportunities and Announcements

Chair Hernandez shared information on the Starlight in the Square event and Commissioner Sanchez shared information on the bilingual beginnings events.

5. Open Call to the Public

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None.

6. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes from the February 20, 2026.

Vice Chair Darling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2026 meeting.

7. Action Items

- A. Rescheduling or Canceling the June meeting for the City observed Holiday of Juneteenth

The commission discussed canceling the June meeting unless there is anything urgent comes up in the meantime that requires the Commission to meet. There was also discussion of upcoming Pride events that will fill up the month with as well.

Staff will put the action to formalize canceling the meeting on the next agenda.

B. Proclamations

- i. Jewish Heritage Month

The Commission discussed both Proclamations together. The Commission confirmed May for both the Jewish Heritage Month and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and discussed creating a document to save community contacts who might be able to represent for the Proclamations brought forward by the Commission.

- ii. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month

8. Discussion Items

- A. Employee Notice and City Manager Directive regarding federal agencies

Item 8B was heard prior to item 8A.

Commission members discussed concerns about relying on federal law enforcement agencies to cooperate with identification and accountability measures, noting uncertainty about whether officers would properly identify themselves. They also questioned what authority the advisory commission actually has to influence city policy, concluding that the issue may need further discussion with Council Liaison Councilmember House and clearer guidance on what actions the commission can formally take.

- B. Regional Plan informational update from Staff

Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Manager Sarah Dechter explained that Ballot Question 492 asks voters to approve the new Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045, replacing the current long-range planning document for Flagstaff and surrounding areas. She said the plan is a flexible policy guide focused on six key priorities, not a zoning code or binding project list.

Chair Hernandez asked questions regarding short term rentals. Ms. Dechter stated that Arizona law limits Flagstaff's ability to regulate short-term rentals, but the city wants to be ready if state rules change. She also said the 2045 plan supports adding more small neighborhood businesses like cafés and corner stores to improve walkability and accessibility.

C. Potential planning meeting to establish goals for the year

Commission members discussed holding a less formal strategic planning meeting, possibly in June to replace the June meeting, to set goals and priorities for the next year. Staff encouraged Commissioners to bring ideas, action items, and questions about commission procedures and open meeting rules to help guide the group's future work.

Staff will bring this item back for further discussion and date planning at the next meeting.

D. Pride Parade update and involvement opportunities from Chair Hernandez

Commission members discussed opportunities to participate in community events during Pride and Juneteenth weekend, including walking in the Pride Parade on June 20 and possibly decorating a truck together. They also talked about coordinating attendance at other local events throughout the weekend and encouraging broader community involvement. Staff reminded Commissioners to let their Staff Liaison know about any potential quorums when gathering outside meetings.

9. Reports

A. Updates from Working Groups

i. Rainbow Crosswalk Update

Vice Chair Darling shared that there is not much to report on this meeting for the Rainbow Crosswalk group but they hope to restart outreach and community engagement this summer.

ii. Library Working Group

Commissioner Sanchez shared the Library Working group's successful ongoing programs like bilingual story time and ASL sessions, planned a Drag Story Hour, and is awaiting a grant for an oral history project. They also introduced a new idea to expand book access through a "book ecosystem" initiative, with details and funding still in development.

B. Updates from Council Liaison

None.

10. Informational To/From Commissionmembers/Staff and Future Agenda Item Requests

None.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



Commission on Diversity Awareness

8. A.

From: Georganna Staskey, Deputy City Clerk

DATE: 05/15/2026

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action regarding the June and July meetings

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:
