



John Strand, City Commissioner

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TO: BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: CITY COMMISSIONER JOHN STRAND

DATE: JUNE 22, 2026

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Over the past several years, the City Commission has engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the future and effectiveness of several advisory boards, including the Arts & Culture Committee (ACC), the Native American Commission (NAC) and the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

In summary, actions by the City Commission to date include:

- ACC has been placed on permanent hold unless budgeted or Federal grant assistance is needed and supported by the City Commission.
- NAC has concluded and moved to a transition plan, to include an independent community-based group that will continue to work collaboratively with the City through city engagement.
- HRC was deferred to a subsequent City Commission.

As the City Commission representative attending Human Rights Commission meetings, I have had the opportunity to observe its work and challenges firsthand. Throughout its history, the Commission has evolved in response to community needs; however, it continues to face the inherent tension between advocacy and the governance framework within which it operates.

After careful consideration, I recommend that the City Commission conclude the Human Rights Commission in its current form. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all past and present members for their dedication, service and commitment to advancing human rights within our community.

I firmly believe that the mission of promoting and protecting human rights is best served through active community engagement, partnerships with local organizations and grassroots initiatives. By operating as an independent, community-oriented entity, a human rights organization can more effectively mobilize community partners and advance its mission beyond the limitations of a governmental advisory board.

The City remains committed to the principles of human rights and looks forward to fostering a strong and collaborative relationship with a community-based human rights organization moving forward.

Recommended Motion: To conclude the Human Rights Commission and direct the City Attorney to amend any associated Ordinances and Resolutions for the Human Rights Commission, the Arts & Culture Commission and the Native American Commission.