



Human Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.  
Festival Park Plaza Training Room, 225 Ray Ave, Suite 122

**Present:** Chairwoman Donna Pelham; Vice-Chairman Eric Bradley Sr.; Secretary Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch (Virtual); Commissioner Sarah Singletary (Virtual); Commissioner Dr. Toshiba Narcisse (Virtual); Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Michael Long; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb; Commissioner Dr. Lynndora Thompson

**Absent:** Commissioner Tracy Pelt (Excused); Commissioner Denise Abrams; Commissioner William "Bill" Milton; Commissioner Milette Herring

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, Human Relations Director; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

**Others Present:** Destini Marshall, Community Interest Attendee

Chairwoman Pelham called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Chairwoman Pelham called for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Singletary. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Sabb, seconded by Commissioner Long. Vote was unanimous.

**Rules Suspension:** Motion to suspend the speaking limit from ten minutes to two minutes was made by Secretary Edmonds, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bradley Sr. Vote was unanimous.

**Community Awards Luncheon - Recap:** Chairwoman Pelham provided a recap of the Community Awards Luncheon and requested an update on final sales. Ms. Curtis reported that sales included five tables, thirty-three tickets, one advertisement, and both a silver and platinum sponsorship.

**Volunteer Time Measuring Tool (VTMT):** Ms. Curtis reminded Commissioners to utilize the Volunteer Time Measuring Tool to log volunteer hours related to Commission events and meetings. The access link is available on the Human Relations webpage and will also be sent via email.

Upcoming Events: Chairwoman Pelham inquired about any upcoming events.

- MLK Scholarship: The application for the Human Relations Scholarship is live and will close on March 26. The reception will be held on Thursday, May 7.
- Civil Rights & Fair Housing Summit: The Human Relations department will be hosting a Civil Rights & Fair Housing Summit on Friday, April 17.
- Dogwood Festival: The Dogwood Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26. For any Commissioners who would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet will be provided closer to the time of the event.
- Denim Day: Denim Day will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at Cape Fear Botanical Gardens from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration is open.

New Business: Chairwoman Pelham announced that she will be stepping down from her role as Chairwoman of the Human Relations Commission due to a new job opportunity in Texas.

Ms. Nazar shared that she presented the Human Relations Commission's annual report to City Council on Monday, February 23. The recording is available on YouTube for those who wish to view it.


Commissioner Singletary announced that *The Sound of Music* program will take place at Fayetteville Technical Community College on March 6, 7, and 8. The event is free and open to the public.

Departmental Report: Chairwoman Pelham stated the Departmental Report can be found in the meeting packet.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Crystal Edmonds, Secretary