



Human Relations Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Festival Park Plaza Training Room, 225 Ray Ave, Suite 122

Present: Chairman Eric Bradley Sr.; Vice-Chairwoman Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch (Virtual); Commissioner Sarah Singletary; Commissioner Dr. Toshiba Narcisse (Virtual); Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb; Commissioner Dr. Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Denise Abrams; Commissioner William "Bill" Milton (Virtual)

Absent: Commissioner Milette Herring; Commissioner Michael Long; Commissioner Dr. Tracy Pelt

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

Chairman Bradley Sr. called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Chairman Bradley Sr. 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 Sabb. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Abrams. Vote was unanimous.

Rules Suspension: Motion to suspend the speaking limit from ten minutes to two minutes was made by Vice-Chairwoman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Bylaws Update: Ms. Nazar stated the process for the bylaws is still being reviewed with Assistant City Manager Jodi Phelps. Once they are completed, the Commission will be notified.

No Kings Rally: Ms. Nazar informed the Commission that there will be a *No Kings Rally* held at Mayor Beth Finch Park on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for any Commissioners interested in attending.

Civil Rights and Fair Housing Summit: Chairman Bradley, Sr. inquired about the Civil Rights & Fair Housing Summit. Ms. Nazar stated that the summit has been cancelled due to low registration.

Commissioner Responsibilities: Ms. Nazar stated that an increase in participation from Commissioners is needed, including, but not limited to, promotion and volunteering at community events.

Dogwood Festival: Chairman Bradley, Sr. inquired about the Dogwood Festival. Ms. Curtis stated that the festival will be held on April 25-26, 2026, and additional information will be sent via email as it becomes available.

Community Engagement Efforts & Community Awards: Ms. Nazar stated that, due to budget changes, events will no longer be held at Cape Fear Botanical Garden. Ms. Nazar also shared that the department is working with a strategic performance analyst to develop a survey for community engagement event participants to gather measurable feedback.

Farewell – Commissioner Francis: Ms. Nazar stated that Commissioner Francis will be departing from the Commission due to the expiration of her term.

New Business: Chairman Bradley Sr. inquired about any new business.

Ms. Curtis announced that Denim Day will be held Wednesday, April 29, and invited Commissioners to register. Ms. Nazar reiterated that assistance with promoting the event would be appreciated.

Ms. Nazar shared that the department is planning to host a Dining & Dialogue in June 2026 focused on human trafficking.

Vice-Chairwoman Edmonds stated that the deadline to submit MLK Scholarship applications is today.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated the Departmental Report can be found in the meeting packet.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Abrams, seconded by Commissioner Francis. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Approved 

Lynndora Thompson, Secretary