



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 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 Scarlett Abounada; Commissioner Dr. Michelle Dean; Commissioner Amanda Hefner; Commissioner Denise Abrams (Virtual); Commissioner William "Bill" Milton; Commissioner Michael Long

Absent: Commissioner Milette Herring (Excused); Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Michael Sabb; Commissioner Dr. Tracy Pelt

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

Others Present: Rachel Andress (Future Commissioner)

Chairman Bradley Sr. called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Chairman Bradley Sr. called for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Chairman Bradley Sr. acknowledged the new Commissioners and allowed them to introduce themselves.

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

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

Rules Suspension: Motion to suspend the speaking limit from ten (10) minutes to two (2) minutes was made by Vice-Chairwoman Edmonds, seconded by Commissioner Long. Vote was unanimous.

Dogwood Festival: Chairman Bradley Sr. inquired about the Dogwood Festival. The festival will take place on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 25, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ms. Curtis informed the Commissioners that a volunteer sign-up sheet will be made available and that participation on both days will depend on the number of volunteers.

Denim Day: Chairman Bradley Sr. inquired about Denim Day. Ms. Curtis stated that Denim Day will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cape Fear Botanical Gardens.

MLK Scholarship Reception: Vice-Chairwoman Edmonds stated that the Scholarship Reception will be held on May 7, 2026, at the Dorothy Gilmore Therapeutic Recreation Center. Ms. Curtis stated that eight (8) volunteers are needed to introduce the scholarship recipients during the reception.

New Business: Chairman Bradley Sr. inquired about any new business to share. Commissioner Milton informed the Commission that Organizing Against Racism Cumberland County (OAR) would host an event on May 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. to examine the 1619 Project and Project 2025, with discussions focused on their impacts on education, reproductive health, and voting rights.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated the Departmental Report will be sent out via email.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Singletary, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Edmonds. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved 

Lynndora Thompson, Secretary