



Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m.

Hosted online on Zoom and in person at Seattle City Hall, 600 4th Ave, Board and Commissions Room #L280.

Call to Order

- at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

- Present:
 - Commissioners Leydon, Catsambas, McCullough, Hultgren, Monson, Gonser, Tibbs, Koss, Quander, Duston, Garcia, Smith
 - Guests: Queen Adams, Josephine Ballew, Teresa Dahl
- Absent:
 - Commissioners Lewis, Gosner
- Late arrival: Commissioner Bailey
- Departed Early: Commissioner Monson
- City of Seattle OCR Staff
 - Present: Marta Idowu

Land Acknowledgement

“We are currently occupying the unceded lands of many First Peoples, Coast Salish people, Muckleshoot, Suquamish, Stillaguamish, and Duwamish. We acknowledge and thank local First Nations for their centuries of land stewardship that long predates the arrival of European settlers. We remind you to be aware of the spaces you occupy locally, that these lands were stolen from First People in the name of white settler colonialism and that you seek ways to continue your education and give back to local Indigenous communities.” (Duwamish Tribe’s website)

“We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking of their people, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and their sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the

tremors of that violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact that can still be felt and witnessed today.” (Dr. Terah “TJ” Stewart)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- I. Commissioner McCullough motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
- II. February 5, 2026 meeting minutes approved unanimously

Public Comment

- I. None

Items of Business

- I. Use of Agenda Form:
 - A. Commissioner McCullough requested a vote be taken at the next meeting related to the authority of the executive team to make changes to the agenda submission form.
- II. OCR- Mike Chin: Postponed to next time
- III. Cut-ties campaign:
 - A. Commissioner Koss agreed to move the agenda item to the next commission meeting to allow commissioners to consider the matter further.
- IV. Public Safety- Office of the City Attorney
 - A. Commissioner Garcia provided an overview of his request that SHRC send a letter to the City Attorney's office related to crime. After discussion, Commissioner Garcia agreed to postpone a vote on the matter until the next meeting.
- V. OCR Leadership Concerns
 - A. Chair McCullough reported recent news involving OCR executive staff and actions that could impact SHRC and our OCR staff support.

Committee/Task Force Reports

- I. Executive - Commissioner McCullough reported:
 - A. Reported that the commission continues to make progress interviewing potential new members and continued recruitment.
- II. Communications Duston reported:
 - A. New social media collateral for recruitment, events, and other activities related to the commission's work.
- III. Appeals - Commissioner Leydon

- A. Reported we have completed all pending appeals. Commissioners Tibbs, Leydon, and Catsambas completed a difficult appeal last month. An appeal is scheduled in March and is ready to be heard. Commissioner Leydon reported having a conversation with Ariel to better prepare and help commissioners before and during appeals hearings. The goal being to make appeals more efficient and respectful for those filings appeals. Heard 5 appeals thus far in 2026.
- IV. Events- Commissioner Quander reported:
 - A. The committee has completed a tentative event schedule for the year.
 - B. Each task force is asked to lead 1 event
 - C. Upcoming event is May 9 for a community listening session.
 - D. Human rights day is tentatively scheduled for December 10
 - E. 5-6 events total for the year hosted by SHRC.
 - F. Encouraged commissioners to volunteer for tabling events.
- V. Criminal Justice Reform Task Force- Commissioner Quander:
 - A. Looking for more members; currently filling out our workplan.
- I. Housing & Unhoused Task Force- Commissioner Bailey shared:
 - A. Social housing model is now legal to implement across the state.
 - B. Focusing on Housing as a Human Right for future event
 - C. Interviewing interns to help with community meetings and focus groups. Specifically, doing community meetings in each district.
 - D. The task force is also looking into how city staff handles clearing encampments.
- II. Human Trafficking Task Force
 - A. Met with Everstrong organization.
 - B. Encouraged commissioners to attend various trainings related to human trafficking as they work to determine their full focus and future plans.

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates

- I. Marta Idowu, OCR, announced that April 6 that the Women's Commission would be holding free mammograms for the public from 8am - 4pm and provide the registration link. Must be over 40 and haven't had 1 in the last year. Additionally, new commissioner onboarding is March 11.

Next Regular Meeting

April 2, 2026

Adjourned 7:59 p.m.

McCullough motioned to adjourn, **Smith** seconded. Motion carried.