

Duluth Human Rights Commission

November 12th, 2025 @ 5:30pm

City Hall Room 430

Public comment will be taken in person. Individuals may also e-mail or mail comments to the Commission prior to the meeting

Commissioners present: Tyra Jaramillo-Kraemer, Luke Islas, Markus Edgette, Jen Harris, Carlyne Holt, Autumn Amadou-Blegen, Dan Maki

Commissioners absent: Amanda Shie, Nomi Ostrander

City staff: Human Rights & Equity Officer - Dr. Marsha Lue

Community members: Bailey Gorsegrner, Maddie Radzak, Mary Lee-Nichols, Betty Ramsland, Cathay DeGroot, Kathleen Spencer, Micki Schneider, Pat Nichols, Susan Dailey

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

- Introductions, including new commission members and community members

Acceptance of October Meeting Minutes

- Vice Chair Harris asked for amendments regarding errors in the attendance before the minutes are posted
 - Motion to amend by Commissioner Islas
 - Seconded by Commissioner Edgette
- Motioned to approve by Commissioner Edgette
- Seconded by Commissioner Jaramillo-Kraemer

Public Comments

- No public comments at this time

Committee Reports

- Executive Team:
 - Did not meet this past month
 - There is an event on December 18th at Dovetail (6-7:30pm)
 - The Executive Team will be there with coloring supplies and other things to be with community
 - Chair Ostrander is meeting with Ashley Grimm and Carl Crawford to see if they can come to meetings and find points of collaboration
 - HR Officer Lue will be out on medical leave, therefore the commission will not be a Human Rights Commission will not be meeting in December
- Findings Committee:
 - Met this morning 11/12/25
 - 3 cases were reviewed

- A woman reported that her daughters were accused of misbehavior at a store, but the mother says that they did not do anything. The police were called. The daughters were banned from the store. The mother believes that this was racially motivated. Officer Lue will be following up.
- Someone from the school district is alleging cultural discrimination. The individual facilitated a conversation, and talked about “cultural re-appropriation” to provide context to other (non-BIPOC) statements. The administration did not approve of the language used by the individual. It is unclear if there were any disciplinary actions taken, and so Officer Lue will be following up.
- A woman who is legally blind stated that her house was raided by police. During the raid, the police obtained property, including cash, that she states is legally hers. She submitted a request to have it returned, but was told that her documentation was not submitted on time. She believes she has been discriminated against by many entities in this situation because she is African American, and it was assumed that the cash was tied to criminal acts. The findings committee is suggesting that this be referred to the state due to the complexity of this case.

New Business

- Commissioner Islas recently attended an event with the ACLU of MN. The Director of Advocacy at that organization stated to Commissioner Islas that he would be willing to attend the commission to walk through how to interact with ICE and how to best stay safe.
 - Vice Chair Harris was supportive of this
 - Officer Lue stated that the DPD Chief of Police would also be willing to come back to a commission meeting for this conversation
- Commissioner Edgette mentioned that if the Human Rights Commission is not meeting in December, it could be beneficial to attend other commission meetings during that month

Human Rights Office Report

- No December meeting, but we will be in touch regarding a January meeting
- Have been sending out information on warming shelters and food banks - please make sure to spread that information widely. If you hear of resources, feel free to share that with Officer Lue so that she can spread the information.
- Was present for the Indigenous People’s Day event. There were about 200 people in attendance. Both mayors gave proclamations.
- The library has a lot of events this month for Native American Heritage month
- November 22 from 11am-3pm, there is a Native American Heritage event at the St. Louis County Depot, and it would be great for people to attend
- The ordinance to have other identity-based commissions join the Human Rights Commission went through, if they vote to do so. The NQ Commission voted to join the Human Rights Commission as a committee earlier this month.

- If a Commission does not meet by June 30th, they will be wrapped into the Human Rights Commission as a committee
- Is in touch with Doug Bowen Bailey, who is on the planning committee for the MLK Day event on January 19. There is a pancake breakfast at the Coppertop Church, and then they meet at the Family Freedom Center at 10am and march down to the DECC to be a part of the rally.
 - Requesting that commission members attend the breakfast and the rally, and especially requesting that commissioners do the march to carry the Human Rights Commission banner
 - Commissioners Islas and Edgette both said that they could carry the banner in the march
 - Officer Lue will also follow up with an email with this information to commissioners

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- The Women in Leadership Conference is next Monday
- The Dovetail event is on December 18th, and will be a social event hosted by the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Disabilities
- Duluth Dines Together will be hosting a community meal on November 14th at Myers Elementary
 - This group will continue to host events in the future
- The warming center is open from November 3rd through April 30th, open from 6pm-8pm
- Trans Day of Remembrance is on November 20th from 4-6pm
 - Trans Northland is also having an artists event for artists who want to share their work on this day

Old Business

- No old business to discuss

Public Comments

- Question on written vs verbal comments
 - If someone wants to present on something, they have to submit a written request in advance
 - Anyone can have a verbal comment for up to three minutes at a meeting, with no need to submit a request in advance
- A representative from Moms Demand Action stated that the group may be interested in attending the Human Rights Commission Meeting
- Commissioner Islas highlighted the inaugural event (The Evening of Dissent) at the ACLU of MN. The event will be continuing in the future, most likely in the fall.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Holt
- Seconded by Commissioner Islas
- Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Tyra Jaramillo-Kraemer