



# City of Northfield

City Hall  
801 Washington Street  
Northfield, MN 55057  
ci.northfield.mn.us

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Human Rights Commission

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Thursday, September 9, 2021

6:00 PM

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### 6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Vice Chair Valdecantos called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM**

**Present:** 6 - Veronica Gamino, Linda Larson, Mar Valdecantos, Barb Wornson, Bruce Morlan and Matthew Lovick

**Absent:** 2 - Jennie Eubank and Nina Mattson

### ALSO PRESENT

*Advisory Board Member Abdullahi Abdullahi; Tom Baraniak, School Board Representative; Mayor Rhonda Pownell; Northfield Chief of Police Mark Elliot; Communications & Human Resources Director Michelle Mahowald; Spanish Translator Claudia Garcia; Beth Kallestad, Staff Liaison; Judy Becker, Meeting Associate*

### ABSENT

*Advisory Member Lucy Gonzalez Miron; Youth Representatives Ella Mayer and Leaf Pennock*

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion made by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Lovick, to approve the September 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Morlan and Lovick

**Not Present:** 1 - Wornson

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [21-516](#) July 12, 2021 HRC Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [07-08-2021 HRC Meeting Minutes](#)

**Chair Wornson arrived at 6:19. Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Lovick, to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021. Baraniak stated the Minutes should be amended to indicate that he was present and that Commissioner Mattson was absent. Amended Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Gamino, Larson, Valdecantos, Wornson, Morlan and Lovick

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## PRESENTATIONS

2. [21-510](#) Update on 2021 Minnesota Legislative Session with Representative Todd Lippert

*MN State Representative Todd Lippert gave an update on the 2021 Minnesota Legislative session .*

*Lippert discussed the following items:*

- \*Executive Order regarding conversion therapy*
- \*Closing loophole on criminal sexual conduct statute*
- \*Establishment of the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives*
- \*Establishment of a task force on missing and murdered African American women*
- \*The Healthy Start Act*
- \*Support for Personal Care Attendants*
- \*Travis' law related to mental health calls to law enforcement.*

*\*In response to a question about prohibiting human trafficking, Kallestad will provide some information on this topic to the HRC at the October meeting.*

## NEW BUSINESS

3. [21-517](#) Consider adding day of service component to MLK Day events

**Attachments:** [1 - 2022 MLK Day description](#)

*Along with being a federal holiday, Martin Luther King Day (observed the third Monday in January) is also a national day of service to encourage people to volunteer in their communities. Northfield Shares, the local community foundation, works to increase volunteerism in our community. Sara Nathan, Executive Director of Northfield Shares, is interested in possibly adding some day of service components to the MLK Day events and has provided a proposal for the HRC to review and discuss.*

4. [21-518](#) Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Personal Pronoun Sharing Administrative Policies.

**Attachments:** [Limited English Proficiency \(LEP\) Administrative Policy\\_FH Edit\\_090121](#)  
[Personal Pronoun Sharing Administrative Policy Final](#)

*Commission members received a copy of the Administrative Policy on the proposed Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Policy copy and a copy of the Administrative Policy on the proposed Personal Pronoun Sharing Policy. Information was also provided as to the development of these policies. Adding these policies are action items included in the 2020 Racial Equity Action Plan and the 2021 Strategic Plan, both of which have been approved by the City Council.*

*Claudia Garcia, Spanish Interpreter in the Communications Department, presented information in English and Spanish on these proposed Administrative Policies. These*

*policies will be presented to the Northfield City Council for consideration of approval at an October 2021 meeting.*

5. [21-511](#) Human Rights Award for 2022

**Attachments:** [1 - 2022 Northfield Human Rights Commission Award Nomination Criteria and Form](#)  
[2 - 2022 Northfield Human Rights Commission Award Nomination Criteria and Form SPANISH](#)

*The Human Resources Commission (HRC) annually gives out a Human Rights Award at the MLK Celebration each January. Nominations are taken from the community. Updated applications in English and Spanish were provided for review by the HRC. Applications will be available at City Hall, the Northfield Library and will be mailed upon request. The forms will also be available online and nominators will be able to type directly online and forward to Kallestad.*

*City staff will post information on the City website, do a press release and social media post.*

*Proposed application timeline is October 1 - 31 for applications, with review at the November HRC meeting.*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. [21-513](#) Consider Indigenous Peoples' Day Event

*The HRC is asked to consider an event(s) in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples' Day (IPD), which is October 11, 2021, to provide information to help educate the community about IPD. The HRC, through the City Communications Department and connections with networks, can help promote the events of the Carleton College Public Works project, as well as any activities the HRC wishes to provide.*

*Carleton College Public Works project will be hosting a variety of events from September 9 through October 17, built around the Why Treaties Matter Exhibit. The events are available on the Carleton College website. Any events specific to Indigenous Peoples' Day are still under development. Commissioner Valdecantos will reach out to Carleton College to determine what they are proposing for IPD.*

*Commissioner Valdecantos suggested encouraging people to visit the Hockata Ti Museum in Shakopee during this time. She discussed organizing information and the possibility of scheduling a bus, sponsored by the HRC, to visit the museum. An alternative would be to encourage residents to go on a certain day but drive themselves. Grant funds, through Rice County Neighbors United, would be available for this activity. It was decided that Commissioners Valdecantos and Wornson will work on reaching out to the museum to determine possible dates. City staff can help to promote once a date is determined.*

7. [21-514](#) Update on Conversion Therapy Ban

*Commissioner Larson provided an update on a Conversion Therapy Ban. Commissioner Larson provided information and statements from the State of Minnesota Executive Order 21-25 "Protecting Minnesotans from 'Conversion Therapy,'" which was signed by Governor Walz on July 15, 2021, scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2022. Given this Executive Order, Commissioner Larson indicated the subgroup for this issue was unsure*

*if instituting a city ban should be pursued.*

*Discussion followed. Commission members referred to Representative Lippert's statement that it is helpful for communities to institute bans to demonstrate the support throughout the State surrounding this issue. Commissioner Larson stated the subcommittee will be reconvened to determine the steps necessary to bring this issue to the City Council.*

## REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND CHAIR

*Commissioner Valdecantos shared two ideas for the celebration of International Day of Peace. One is that the Quaker (Friends) group in Northfield is hosting an event on September 25th and members of the HRC could help to promote the event and also attend. The second option was to participate in an event on September 21st on Zoom with Marnita's Table (nonprofit), designed to bring people together for conversations around peace topics. Given the date for Marnita's Table is soon, the HRC thought that supporting the Quaker event made the most sense.*

## STAFF UPDATES

### 8. [21-515](#)

#### Staff Report

*\*The Northfield Racial & Equity Collaborative continues to meet monthly as either the large group or work groups. Commissioners Valdecantos and Gamino are participating along with several city staff.*

*\*Valdecantos gave a brief update regarding the City Rental Code Inspection updates making their way through Council adoption process. She and Commissioner Gonzalez Miron attended the September 7th Council Meeting and shared their support for this item.*

*\*Staff Racial Equity Core Team has completed some reviews with Departments with regard to equity in services.*

*\*The City is planning to offer another session of the Growing Local: Northfield Emerging Leaders Program in early 2022, in collaboration with the U of M Extension Services. An information session will be held on September 28th, from 6:30-7:30 PM on Zoom. Kallestad noted a change to the Growing Local: Northfield Emerging Leaders information session scheduled for September 28th. The planning team has decided to do a more intentional social media outreach campaign. HRC support in sharing information is appreciated.*

*\*The Northfield Police Department has worked on a new law enforcement program offered through the Northfield Community College Collaborative and Riverland Community College. The collaboration, which is also geared toward students of color and female students with scholarships available, will bring the law enforcement program to Northfield so students can live in the area while getting a degree. For additional information contact Sarah Lee from HCI at <<mailto:nccc@healthycommunityinitiative.org>> .*

*\*Wanbli Mitakuye Oyasmin/We are all Related sculpture by John Sterner is being created with plans for installation in May 2022.*

*\*Staff presented an update on the Racial Equity Action Plan to the City Council on September 7th. It was a presentation at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Valdecantos asked if staff would share the update on the Racial Equity Action Plan that had been presented at this meeting. Staff commented that it will be on the HRC agenda*

*for October.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Commissioner Larson, second by Commissioner Gamino, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. Motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Wornson, Larson, Lovick, Valdecantos, Gamino and Morlan