Seattle
Human Rights Commission

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Sept 3, 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 6:05 p.m. by Commissioner Tibbs

Roll Call

- Present:
  - Commissioner Tibbs took the roll call. Present at the start of the meeting were the following Commissioners: Adams, Bailey, Gonser, Isaak, Kkwafkwao, Leyden, Lin, Quander, and Tibbs. Commissioners Lewis and Stylianidas were excused.
- Absent were the following Commissioners: Duston, Flamon, and Monson.
- City of Seattle OCR Staff
  - Present: Sebastian Wilson Advisory Commission Liaison, Meredith Stone, Acting SOCR Director Mike Chin

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 ascendants 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)

Public Comment

I. Newly-appointed Get Engaged Commissioner Amy Nichols introduced herself and was welcomed by the Commission.
II. Community Organizer Maria Mandt introduced herself and expressed an interest in learning more about, and potentially joining, the Commission.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

I. Minutes from the August 2026 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Bailey identified that names for former Commissioner Hultgren and Commissioner Stylianides need to be edited.
II. Commissioner Gonser moved that pending those edits, the minutes should be approved. Commissioner Quander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

I. Filling Leadership roles on the Commission
II. The Executive Committee introduced a slate of candidates to fill the vacant leadership roles, as follows: Commissioner Isaak, Chair; Commissioner Bailey, Vice Chair; Commissioner Kkwafkwao, Treasurer.
III. Commissioner Quander moved to pass the slate of candidates as proposed. Commissioner Gonser seconded the motion.
IV. The slate passed unanimously.
V. Commissioners Bailey and Isaak expressed concern about the lack of diversity among Commission leadership, and emphasized that the roles were interim until the annual retreat in January.

New Business

I. By-Laws Update
    a. The current leadership structure does not align with Commission by-laws. Commissioner Tibbs outlined the process needed, including public notification of the proposed rules. Commissioner Tibbs was thanked for his service and OCR staffers Sebastian and Meredith for all of their work on this.
II. Policy Questions
    a. SOCR Interim Director Mike Chin joined the meeting and shared appreciation for the commission's work to establish clearer strategic goals and appreciated the commission's public service to the city.

Committee and Task Force Reports

I. **Communications** – No report.

II. **Appeals** – Commissioner Leyden
   a. Commissioner Leyden provided a brief overview of the Appeals process and reported that the Commission has completed 15 Appeals so far in 2026. Commissioners Tibbs, Isaak, and Monson are scheduled to sit on the Appeals in September. New Commissioners are encouraged to complete the training as slots are open for Appeals hearings later in the year.

III. **Events** – Commissioner Quander
   a. Commissioner Quander has been out so there are no updates. The need was shared for someone to help manage social media. Committee meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 5:30 – 6:30.
   b. Reminder for all Commissioners: Supporting Human Rights Day, scheduled for December 13, is the top priority for the remainder of the year. We need support from all Commissioners. The theme for this year's event is "Resilient Communities."

IV. **Housing Task Force** – Commissioner Bailey
   a. Thanks to all who submitted ideas for questions and conversation guidance for the planned conversations with people affected by encampment clearances. Commissioners Bailey and Kkwafkwao have compiled these suggestions into a single document and are working to develop a more structured guide.
   b. We had an extended conversation about the purpose of the community conversations, and why the Commission should conduct them. We think this is a good fit with our charge because of our unique position as community members advocating within City government for human rights issues. Conversation also centered on understanding what we mean by "housing" (is it shelter, permanent housing, etc.?) and who our best partners are for these conversations.

V. **Government Relations** – No report.

VI. **Criminal Legal System Reform** – No report, planning to restart meeting in the coming month.

VII. **Executive Committee** – Commissioner Tibbs
   a. Commissioner Tibbs walked through the survey results and reminded Commissioners that our workplan expires on Dec. 31. He noted we will spend time during the rest of the year focused on a

strategic planning process. Commissioner Tibbs is sending a poll to find the best times to meet to accomplish this.

b. We were also reminded of the commitment we made when we joined the Commission to attend monthly Commission meetings and actively serve on at least one Task Force or Committee.

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates

I. Special presentation by Mike Chin, Interim Director of the Office of Civil Rights
   a. Director Chin's interim position has been extended through the end of the calendar year.
   b. Director Chin is aware of our concerns about stipends, and noted this is a topic of discussion with the department, recognizing stipends can be an effective tool to increase participation on commissions.
   c. OCR will be working on a Triennial Report.
   d. Mayor Wilson is signing the Do Not Solicit legislation into law on Sept. 8. All are welcome.
   e. The family protection bill will also be introduced on Sept. 8th
   f. The Trans/Queer Stabilization funding proposal will be introduced Sept. 10

Announcements

I. General Announcements
   a. Commissioner Bailey asked for a volunteer to represent SHRC at an upcoming planning meeting for the Renter's Resource Fair being coordinated by the Women's Commission

Upcoming Events & Meetings

I. The Annual SOCR Commissions Roundtable will be in person on Sept. 26
II. October 1, 2026, Monthly SHRC Meeting
III. November 5, 2026, Monthly SHRC Meeting
IV. December 3, 2026, Monthly SHRC Meeting
V. December 13, 2026, Human Rights Day

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting

Oct 1, 2026