



WILLMAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1

333 6TH ST SW, WILLMAR, MN 56201

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Proposed Additions or Deletions to Agenda
4. Approve Minutes
 - A. Review and Approve the April 29, 2026, Minutes
5. Regular Business
 - A. Chair Resignation and Appointment of New Chair
 - B. MN Truth Council
 - C. Upcoming Events
6. Adjourn

WILLMAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1
333 6TH ST SW, WILLMAR, MN 56201

April 29, 2026
5:30 PM

At 5:30 PM Vice Chair Benson called the meeting to order. The following Commission Members were present. Present: Sarah Vasquez, Allen Clark, Jill Benson, Sarah Kretschmann, and Richard Engan. Absent: John Salgado Maldonado, and Peggy Karsten. Also present was City Operations Director Kyle Box.

Director Box welcomed the new members, provided an overview of the mission and purpose of the Willmar Human Rights Commission, and the Open Meeting Law as it pertains to the Willmar Human Rights Commission.

Vice Chair Benson asked for introductions of the members and why they are a part of the Human Rights Commission.

A. Review and Approve the January 27, 2026, Minutes

Motion by Commission Member Engan, Seconded by Commission Member Clark, to approve the January 27, 2026, minutes. All voted in favor.

B. Officers Appointments

Nomination by Commission Member Engan to reinstate the current members in their positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Motion by Commission Member Engan, Seconded by Clark for John Salgado Maldonado as Chair. All voted in favor.

Motion by Commission Member Kretschmann, Seconded by Engan for Jill Benson as Vice Chair. All voted in favor.

Motion by Commission Member Engan, Seconded by Benson for Allen Clark as Secretary. All voted in favor.

C. Review of Bylaws

The Commission acknowledged the bylaws and did not provide any recommended changes at this time. There was further discussion by the Commission on upcoming events for the Commission to participate in, including Juneteenth, Willmar Fests, Rockin Robbins, Pride, and Welcoming Week.

Director Obregon will be asked to provide event details to the Commission in a future update.

At 6:20 PM, Motion by Commission Member Engan, Seconded by Commission Member Clark to Adjourn.

CHAIR

Attest:

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY GROWTH



Human Rights Commission Action Request

Council Meeting Date:	July 28, 2026	Agenda Item Number:	5.A.
Agenda Section:	Regular Business	Originating Department:	Administration
Resolution:	No	Prepared By:	
Ordinance:	No	Presented By:	
Item:	Chair Resignation and Appointment of New Chair		

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the resignation letter submitted by Human Rights Commission Chair John Salgado Maldonado and consider acceptance of the resignation and the appointment of a new Chair.

OVERVIEW:

BUDGETARY/FISCAL ISSUES:

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resignation Chair of the City Human Rights Commission

Dear City Operations Director and Director of Community Growth,

I hope you are both well.

I am writing to formally resign from my role as Chair of the City Human Rights Commission, effective May 5th, 2026.

Serving in this role has given me the opportunity to engage more deeply with issues of dignity, equity, and community voice, and to reflect on the kind of leadership I believe these moments and this community requires.

During my time as Chair, I often encouraged a more active and visible role for the commission in moments when members of our community were experiencing harm, including public communication and community education. At times, I found that my perspective on how to move this work forward differed from the collective direction of the commission.

At the same time, I am currently focusing on growing my own work and initiatives, which require my full time and energy. For that reason, and given the differences in approach, I believe it is the right time for me to step down from this leadership role.

That said, I remain committed to the wellbeing of our community and would value staying connected to the commission's work in a different capacity, from another space and in ways that feel aligned and constructive.

I would appreciate it if you could please share this message with the full commission.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served and I sincerely hope to see the commission continue to grow in visibility and impact.

Please let me know how I can support a smooth transition.

Respectfully,
John Salgado M.