



City of Albuquerque

Office of Equity & Inclusion

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Human Rights Board

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Members Present

- Jack Champagne, Chair
- Leticia Galvez-Trujillo, Vice Chair
- Mark Lamb
- Killian McDonald
- Cassandra Porter
- Sara Samani

Members Not Present

- Alana Banks

Members of the Public

- Myles Sandoval

City Staff Present

- Gabriela Marques, OCR Manager
- Dr Nina Cooper, Deputy of OEI
- Charles Davis, City Attorney
- Akeva Nkouaga, OCR Intern

MINUTES

I. Call to order.

- a. The Human Rights Board Meeting of May 21, 2026 was called to order by Chair Champagne at 5:04 pm. Introductions were done by all present.

II. Review and approval of agenda for May 21, 2026.

- a. Chair Champagne then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Lamb moved to approve the agenda. Member McDonald seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

III. Review and approval of minutes from April 16, 2026.

- a. Chair Champagne asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 16, 2026. Member Champagne moved to approve the minutes. Member Porter seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

IV. Public Comment.

a. Myles Sandoval — Albuquerque Polyamory/ENM. Myles Sandoval, founder and board member of Albuquerque Polyamory/ENM, spoke in support of adding relationship and family structure as a protected category under Article Three of the Human Rights Ordinance (§11-3-2), Declaration of Policy, Section D. The organization is a queer-centered nonprofit serving approximately 1,600 members across platforms through 3–4 events per month. It was noted that Olympia, Washington recently passed similar non-discrimination protections and argued the amendment would benefit not only the ENM community but also blended and multi-generational families. Myles Sandoval submitted a draft of the proposed ordinance amendment to the board via email.

V. Subcommittee Reports

- a. **Accountability & Community Engagement subcommittee**

Member Porter reported limited outreach activity in April. Member Porter attended a national policy group meeting focused on a community of practice training covering recent federal changes to SNAP, Medicaid, and related programs. Key changes discussed included new work requirements affecting homeless individuals, veterans, and foster youth — groups that were previously exempt. It was noted that veterans with disability ratings below 100% would now be subject to work requirements to maintain SNAP or Medicaid eligibility, and expressed concern that these changes raise significant human rights issues. Member Porter will write highlights of the changes and distribute with the Board. Member Porter also highlighted an upcoming World Refugee Day event on June 20th as an opportunity for community outreach and encouraged board members to attend.

b. Research, Investigation and Policy subcommittee

Member McDonald reported that since the last meeting, the subcommittee has continued narrowing its focus. Members McDonald and Samani met and agreed to center the subcommittee's work around community outreach, education, and tenant rights. They also aligned on a general workflow: beginning with research, moving toward public awareness and education, and ultimately developing policy recommendations or referrals for political action to the full board. Additionally, the subcommittee reached out to the OCR manager, who provided several months of housing-related data and reports. Next steps include reviewing that material and continuing to identify where the subcommittee's work can have the greatest impact.

VI. Director's Report

a. Office of Equity and Inclusion

Dr Nina Cooper, Deputy Director of OEI shared department updates.

Leadership: New director Dillon Shije, a member of Zia Pueblo, was announced and may be invited to address the board at a future meeting.

Asian Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian Office: Received a Shorty Award finalist recognition for Project Bridge, is developing a Know Your Rights animated videos, and is working toward an APINH Center having raised approximately \$2.2 million.

Office of Black Community Engagement: Graduated its second Ujima Collective cohort and highlighted approximately 17 upcoming Juneteenth events running in the month of June.

Office of Financial Empowerment: Was awarded a Financial Empowerment Center for one-on-one counseling and received City Council approval to proceed into year two of the Guaranteed Basic Income program.

Immigration and Refugee Affairs: Is implementing the Safe Spaces Ordinance signed by the mayor and is preparing for World Refugee Day, which is projected to draw approximately 1,000 attendees.

Office of Native American Affairs: Hosted the Missing Murder Indigenous Persons event at Civic Plaza and the office continues tribal government partnerships and is pursuing a potential grant for indigenous cultural preservation and public art.

b. Office of Civil Rights

The Manager of OCR, hosted a fair housing webinar on April 28 with approximately 25 attendees; recording pending upload to the city website. OCR will be partnering with the Native Professional Advancement Center in June to host Native college students for a four-day civic exposure program. OCR suggested inviting the Executive Director of the Americans for Indian Opportunity to give a presentation to the board about Indigenous peoples of Americas. The OCR will have an online campaign posting a 30 second video ad to rebuild public awareness following a decline in inquiries in recent years. On May 14, OEI offices provided an orientation to APD community ambassadors on the Office of Civil Rights. OCR manager encouraged board members to represent the Office of Civil Rights at World Refugee Day (June 20) and Juneteenth (June 19), as the primary staff contact will be unavailable that week.

VII. New Business

a. Discussion or Proposals

No new discussion or proposals.

b. Seating or removal of absent members

The board initiated the removal proceedings for Member Alana Banks, pursuant to § 2-6-1-3(C)(1), upon absence from 3 consecutive meetings with no communication from the member. Chair Champagne moved to vacate Member Banks seat on the human rights board. Member McDonald seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Chair Champagne shared that this would be Member Lamb's last meeting given his move out of state. The Chair and other members expressed appreciation for his contributions.
- b. Chair Champagne shared that two new members for the board have been identified and sent to the Mayor's Office and City Council for approved.
- c. Vice Chair Trujillo noted that as an outreach worker serving homeless, unaccompanied, displaced, and abandoned youth, that high school graduation season is currently underway and highlighted it as a significant milestone for youth in transitional living situations. Additionally, the Bernalillo County recently concluded a housing assistance program for rental assistance, move-in deposits, utility assistance, and arrears — benefiting numerous families and youth.
- d. Vice Chair Trujillo shared that she will be away from the June and July meetings due to her wedding anniversary and family travel.

IX. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business before the Board, Chair Champagne moved to adjourn. Vice Chair Galvez-Trujillo seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.