



City of Albuquerque

Office of Equity & Inclusion

Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Human Rights Board

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Members Present

- Cassandra Porter
- Killian McDonald
- Sara Samani
- Benjamin Tobias

Members Not Present

- Leticia Galvez-Trujillo, Vice Chair
- Jack Champagne, Chair

Members of the Public

- Myles Sandoval
- David Carlson
- Lisa Jaynes Johnson
- Trista Jackson
- Bobular C
- Michelle Donovan
- Eric Stout
- Robyn Accer

City Staff Present

- Gabriela Marques, OCR Manager
- Charles Davis, City Attorney
- Akeva Nkouaga, Intern

MINUTES

I. Call to order.

- a. The Human Rights Board Meeting of July 16, 2026 was called to order by Member Porter (subbing in for Chair Champagne who was not able to be present) at 5:01 pm, Member Samani seconded. Introductions were done by all present.

II. Review and approval of agenda for July 16, 2026.

- a. Member Porter then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Tobias seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

III. Review and approval of minutes from June 18, 2026.

- a. Member Porter asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 18, 2026. Member Porter moved to approve the minutes. Member Samani seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

IV. Public Comment.

- a. Myles Sandoval, founder and board member of the Albuquerque Polyamory/ENM group, followed up on public comments made at the May and June meetings, requesting that the Human Rights Board propose an amendment to Article Three of the Human Rights Ordinance. Myles invited additional support to provide public comment.

- b. David Carlson, legislative advocacy campaign coordinator for OPEN, spoke to draw attention to the legal discrimination faced by individuals outside traditional monogamous relationships, citing instances of job loss and expulsion from religious congregations.
- c. Lisa Jaynes Johnson, a licensed marriage and family therapist practicing in New Mexico since 1994, shared her professional perspective on how open relationships have helped couples and families stay together and meet each other's needs - citing examples of shared caregiving for disabled family members and children remaining supported through additional partners rather than divorce. She noted the range of family structures that can provide support in many instances.
- d. Trista Jackson spoke to the stigma faced by individuals with chosen families, drawing on their background in the foster care system and post-traumatic stress disorder. They emphasized the importance of social support networks – noting that marginalized individuals face greater risk of homelessness – and cited the absence of “family of origin ” as evidence of the need for legal protections and relationships outside traditional norms.
- e. Eric Stout, spoke in support, referencing the 1963 Fair Housing ordinance and noting that the proposed protection would expand in it. He expressed a wish for Albuquerque to be a leader on this issue and in respect to multigenerational households.
- f. Robyn Accer, an Albuquerque resident, shared her positive experience as a member of the polyamorous community in support of increased safety and protection.
- g. Cristobal Rocha, with the Albuquerque Office of Civic Engagement, noted that Chair Champagne was featured on a campaign video about service on boards and commissions and to promote it. Cristobal reported that there are 80 vacant positions.

V. Subcommittee Reports

a. Research, Investigation and Policy subcommittee

Member McDonald shared his research on Family or Relationship Structure as a Protected Category. He reviewed the submitted draft by Myles Sandoval, the request of the ENM that “family or relationship structure” be included in Article 3. Member McDonald recommends edits to the language.

b. Accountability & Community Engagement

Member Porter shared about presence at the Juneteenth and World Refugee Day, and Member Tobias shared presence at the Affordability Roundtable.

VI. New Business

a. Discussion of the proposed added protected category to the Human Rights ordinance

Member Porter opened discussion on the research presented by Member McDonald. Member McDonald expressed disappointment with the limited data available. Member Porter requested that discussion remain focused on Albuquerque's specific context, noting that other cities have passed similar protected class amendments.

Charles Davis, Board Attorney, reminded the Board of the scope of his role, noting that he is unable to assist in drafting policy proposals or language, but can provide administrative support, such as ensuring proposed language does not conflict with existing ordinances.

Member Porter proposed a special meeting to consult on ordinance language and to prepare an advisory

report for City Council. It was noted that Council Services has staff capacity to draft specific legislative language, but that the Board's priority is to present the information to City Council to gauge interest in introducing the ordinance. The special meeting was scheduled for August 13, 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m., and was agreed to by the Board.

b. New Discussion or Proposals

No new discussion.

VII. Director's Report

a. Office of Civil Rights

Manager of the Office of Civil Rights, Gabriela Marques, shared that the job position for the program coordinator of the Office of Civil Rights and the Office of Consumer Protection has been posted and invited the board members to share in the community.

Marques met with the staff of Congressman Vasquez and offered an invitation for a meeting to be held with the board, which has been sent. Shared a meeting with a leader from the Muslim community who is interested in collaborating with the Human Rights board on a resolution due to hateful comments related to the building of a new Mosque in the City of Albuquerque.

At the upcoming August 20th meeting, American Indians for Opportunity will present to the board.

Reported on the number of intakes to the Office of Civil Rights for the last quarter from April 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, and current case category status.

VIII. Announcements

- a.** Member Samani reached out to the Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness for a presentation to the board. Waiting to hear about availability.
- b.** Requested additional Renter's Guides from New Mexico Legal Aid to share with the community at outreach events.

IX. Adjournment

- a.** There being no further business before the Board, Member Porter moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.