



Raul Torres
Executive Director

June 11, 2026

Minutes of May 14, 2026
Human Rights Commission
James J McCoart Building – Board Chambers

MINUTES

Chair

Curtis O. Porter

Vice Chair

Evelyn BruMar

Parliamentarian

Ramunda Young

Members

William Johnston

Kimberly Sparkes

Padreus D. Pratter

Victoria D. Staubly

Benjamin Baldwin

Russell Young

Present: Commissioners: Victoria Staubly, Benjamin Baldwin, Kimberly Sparkes, Evelyn BruMar, Padreus Pratter, Russell Young, Chair, Curtis Porter, Director, Raul Torres, Assistant Director, Shelia Venning, and Administrative Specialist, Tiffany Jones.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Citizens Time

- There was 1 citizen present.

Old Business

- The minutes of the April 9, 2026, meeting were approved (Baldwin moved/Staubly – seconded). Minutes passed 5/0 with 2 abstentions.

New Business

- Director Torres introduced the new Human Rights Investigators to the Commission: Investigators Jessica Greene and Steven Shifflett. Jessica joins the team with Human Resources, and Steven comes from the Office of the Inspector General.
- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the 19th of June 2026 as Juneteenth Day (BruMar moved/Baldwin second). Resolution passed 7/0.

- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the month of June 2026 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning (LGBTQ+) and More Pride Month (BruMar moved/Pratter second). Resolution passed 7/0.
- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the month of May 2026 as Older Americans Month (BruMar moved/Young, R. second). Resolution passed 7/0.

Committee Reports

Jail Board

- The next Jail Board meeting will be next Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Student Leadership Council

- Cohort 10 graduation was held on April 28 at 6:30 PM in the Ferlazzo Building Auditorium.
- This Cohort graduated 52 students and recognized 8 ambassadors for their contributions.
- The guest speakers were Chair, DeShaundra Jefferson, Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Charmelle Ackins for Prince William County Public Schools, and Mr. Christopher Shorter, County Executive (CXO) with Prince William County Government.
- The memory book will be sent via email to all commissioners.

Racial & Social Justice Task Force

- The Racial & Social Justice Task Force will meet on the second Thursday of every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.
- The Task Force will host Chief Newsham of the Prince William County Police Department, who will update the Task Force on the recommendations listed in the Racial & Social Justice report.

Director's Report

- The office has been hosting a high school extern, Niya Allen-Cleckley. Niya has been assisting with administration and outreach efforts and will receive academic credit for the experience. In addition to the extern, the office will host a college intern for approximately one month, starting in June.
- Director Torres recently participated in a hiring panel for a Language Access Coordinator. This new role will standardize language access protocols and ensure a uniform approach across all county agencies.
- The office maintains a healthy caseload and is currently approaching 60 open cases.
- An article was recently circulated to Prince William County schools and residents featuring the Cohort 10 Student Leadership Council. The Human Rights Commission is featured in *Prince William Living* magazine. This is part of a broader three-article campaign highlighting the

Office of Human Rights. The first article introduces the Commission; the second will outline how complaints are filed and processed; and the final piece will focus on language access and breaking down community barriers.

- Alongside the magazine features, the office is running a campaign with Spanish radio station 107.9 FM from April through June. The campaign consists of 15- to 30-second spots airing approximately 30 times a day.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

Victoria Staubly – Commissioner Staubly attended the Student Leadership Council graduation, noting that a friend’s daughter was among the celebrated graduates. Additionally, Commissioner Staubly will attend the Equality Prince William Pride Festival this Saturday, May 16th, and looks forward to supporting the community event.

Kimberly Sparkes – Commissioner Sparkes expressed appreciation for Tate Jordan’s visit to thank the Commission for helping launch his career, noting that she is looking forward to his future work.

Additionally, Commissioner Sparkes welcomed Commissioner Russell Young to the Commission.

Commissioner Sparkes is a member of the planning committee for the Juneteenth Festival. They are expecting attendance of approximately 3,000 people and are actively seeking volunteers to assist with the event.

Padreus Pratter – Commissioner Pratter welcomed Commissioner Russell Young to the Commission. Also, he gave thanks to Tate Jordan for his work and advocacy in the community.

Benjamin Baldwin – Commissioner Baldwin addressed Tate Jordan, sharing insight into the nature of the legislative process and advising him on the hard work ahead.

Additionally, Commissioner Baldwin is excited for the Commission’s feature in *Prince William Living* magazine, jokingly promising a new hairstyle for the next photo.

Lastly, Commissioner Baldwin welcomes Commissioner Russel Young.

Russell Young – Commissioner Young thanked the commission for welcoming him.

Commissioner Young encouraged Tate Jordan to keep moving forward, sharing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s famous quote: “If you can’t fly, run; if you can’t run, walk; if you can’t walk, crawl, but by all means keep moving.”

Evelyn BruMar – Commissioner BruMar thanked Tate Jordan for providing an update on his recent work and welcomed Commissioner Russell Young.

Commissioner BruMar also provided an update from the recent Continuum of Care meeting regarding the 2025–2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) homeless count. Key highlights included:

- Added 34 hypothermic beds; saw a nominal (<1%) reduction in unsheltered individuals.

- Homelessness is decreasing among adults but increasing among children due to larger family sizes.
- Demographics: 67% increase in youth (ages 18–27); 17% decrease in veterans; 29% are ages 55+; 81% identify as women.
- Housing Crisis: Despite a \$16M allocation for affordable housing, a lack of larger housing units means bigger families face longer periods of homelessness.

Commissioner BruMar shared that the Casa BruMar Foundation center will be opening this July, just after Pride Month. Casa BruMar will attend the Equality Prince William (EPW) Pride Festival, taking place this weekend at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas, along with the Town of Dumfries Pride Brunch, taking place on Sunday, May 17th.

Commissioner BruMar closed with words of encouragement, urging everyone to "fail forward" to achieve success faster and to always "dream big."

Curtis Porter – Chair Porter reminded the Commission that the City of Richmond is launching its own Human Rights Commission. Richmond has invited commissioners and staff from Charlottesville, Virginia Beach, and Prince William County to attend a collaborative training session scheduled in October.

Chair Porter received correspondence regarding a recent article that highlighted Loudoun County as the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia without a Human Rights Commission. The item was brought forward for further consideration and exploration.

In addition, Chair Porter commended Commissioners Sparkes and Pratter for their work with the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet at Little Union Baptist Church, noting that the event was highly successful and well-attended.

Lastly, Chair Porter encouraged fellow commissioners to support and attend the upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR MAY 2026**

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	1	10	
Housing			
Public Accommodation		1	
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL			59