

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**February 26, 2025**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**Councilors Present:** Eliza Kashinsky, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, and Randy Groves

Mayor Knudson opened the February 26, 2025, Eugene City Council Work Session in a virtual format.

**1. WORK SESSION: Human Rights Commission Work Plan 2024-2026**

City Manager, Sarah Medary, introduced Central Services Executive Director, Mia Cariaga, who was joined by Human Rights Commission Chair, Blake Burrell. Together they presented the highlights from work the Human Rights Commission (HRC) recent projects and the 2024-2026 Human Rights Commission work plan.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Leech – is the Council liaison to the HRC and expressed her gratitude for the commission members and their commitment to the work; stated her support for the work plan goals; noted the HRC has discussed how best to align with Council priorities and upcoming Council topics related to human rights; stated she has provided HRC upcoming agenda information to help improve the alignment of HRC work with Council priorities; expressed gratitude for Commissioner Burrell's contributions and wished him well on future endeavors.
- Councilor Kashinsky – noted concerning actions from the current federal administration since this work plan was created and the impact those actions may have on marginalized populations; asked how these new issues will be factored into the work plan in the coming year.
- Councilor Zelenka – noted appreciation for the structure of the report; stated this work plan has a broad scope; asked how the HRC plans to work through all the goals; noted all boards and commission members are volunteers; stated boards and commission members usually bring topics or ideas to the work plans that are important to them; stated Council does not typically direct boards and commissions to address specific items in their work plans; asked Commissioner Burrell what work has had the most significant impact during his time; asked Commissioner Burrell if he has seen the community opinions change over the last six months.
- Councilor Yeh – asked Commissioner Burrell if the HRC has contacted other human rights groups in across the state; likes the concept of the two year work plan; would like to have more of a discussion or review of accomplishments from previous work

plan the next time HRC presents to Council; noted a feeling of disconnect from the boards and commissions she is not assigned to; would like to be more informed on all boards and commissions work.

- Mayor Knudson – asked if HRC has discussed ways to help advocate for shelter funding; asked Commissioner about work plan item 2.9 regarding engaging indigenous individuals who once resided on the Kalapuya Ilihi; asked Commissioner Burrell if there are specific items HRC or its subcommittees are thinking about sharing more broadly to the public.
- Councilor Keating – thanked Commissioner Burrell for his service on HRC; asked if HRC could help advocate for a law that protects good Samaritans from prosecution for informing persons of their civil rights; asked to clarify if HRC has discussed the need for community members to stand up for individuals who may be targeted based on the color of their skin.

**MOTION:** Councilor Evans, seconded by Councilor Leech, move to approve the Human Rights Commission 2024-2026 Work Plan as presented in Attachment B.

**VOTE: 8:0 PASSED**

**IN FAVOR:** Kashinsky, Keating, Zelenka, Yeh, Clark, Evans, Leech, Groves

**OPPOSED:** None

Councilor Mayor Knudson adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala  
City Recorder

*(Recorded by Sara McKinney)*

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).