



Human Rights Commission Agenda

September 3, 2026 | 6:30 p.m. | City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Public Resources Briefing

Public Comment (5 minutes)

Committee Reports

- Education Committee – Commissioner Williams
- Public Relations – Commissioner Terry
- Community Action – Commissioner Thomson
- Housing – Commissioner Philpot
 - Quincy Housing Authority Activities
 - Safe and Livable Housing Committee/Complaint Form Update

New Business

- Review Title VI Complaints/Responses
- Late Additions

Commissioner's Comments

Adjournment

Quincy Human Rights Commission Meeting August 2026 Minutes

Transcribed by Otter.AI

SUMMARY

The Quincy Human Rights Commission meeting on August 6, 2026, introduced new meeting structure changes, including a separate agenda item for community partners and a five-minute limit for public comments. Natasha Will from Quincy Public Library highlighted upcoming programs, including a naturopathy presentation and a DIY fashion workshop. Mike Dade from the Quincy Fire Department discussed the recruitment process and the Explorer program. Interim Chief Mike Tyler addressed the Blue Envelope Program for individuals with disabilities and the hiring process for new police officers. Concerns were raised by members of the community about the gun range land purchase and offensive social media posts by city employees. The meeting discussed the severe housing crisis in Quincy, highlighting issues like poor living conditions, lack of rental registration, and inadequate city inspections. Tim Clark shared his experience of homelessness despite having a job, emphasizing the need for better housing standards. Melissa Jones detailed her son's health issues due to mold and poor carpeting in her rented apartment, despite multiple complaints and inspections. The commissioners called for a rental registration ordinance and better enforcement of housing standards. They also discussed the need for comprehensive community recovery programs and better support for homeless individuals and families. The meeting discussed various issues, including a child's health at Blessing Hospital, code violations, and the homelessness crisis. Speaker 4 expressed frustration over the lack of action regarding a child's health issue, suggesting legal steps. Speaker 25 agreed on the need for a code violation related to carpet issues affecting a child and emphasized the city's role in addressing homelessness. The Salvation Army's efforts and the need for more shelters and rental properties were highlighted. Despite disagreements, the importance of maintaining respectful conversations and Christian values was stressed. The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn.

Action Items

- [] Refine the existing marketing plan for a senior tablet and phone usage program and schedule it for implementation in the fall or early January.
- [] Once the state provides the Blue Envelope kits starting January 1, coordinate their distribution to residents and conduct a media blitz to inform the community about how to obtain and use the envelopes.

- [] Contact Bella Ease after receiving Commissioner Terry's information to arrange a presentation on developing a comprehensive community recovery and resilience program.

Outline

Meeting Introduction and Structure Changes

- (Chairman Philpot) introduces the meeting, mentioning changes to the meeting structure following consultation with Mayor Moore.
- A separate agenda item for community partners and providers is added, allowing agencies like Quincy Public Library and Quincy Public Schools to discuss matters outside the public comment section.
- Community feedback and presentations are limited to five minutes, with extensions possible by the chair or majority vote.
- The public comment section is increased to five minutes, subject to the same guidelines as other presentations.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

- (Chairman Philpot) calls the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and conducts the roll call, Commissioners Terry, Thomson, Peat, Vice Chairman Williams, Commissioners Weathers, Hickman, Brock and Lyons are present confirming a quorum.
- Commissioners Caldwell and Reed are excused, but later join the meeting.
- The approval of minutes from the July meeting is moved and seconded, with no discussion and unanimous approval.
- Chairman Philpot introduces the next agenda item, a public resources briefing by Natasha Will from Quincy Public Library.

Quincy Public Library Programs and Services

- Natasha Will from Quincy Public Library outlines various programs and services, including a naturopathy presentation and DIY fashion workshops for adults.
- Teen Takeover on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 PM is highlighted as a place for teens to hang out and engage in activities.
- Monday evenings feature a relaxation station for three to six-year-olds, and a tween program on henna workshops is scheduled for August 20th.
- Natasha mentions the mobile library stops and the calendar of events, encouraging community members to participate in the programs.

Community Feedback and Security Measures

- Commissioner Terry asks Natasha about the challenges faced by the library, including tax-related questions and tech tutoring.
- Natasha explains the Ask Here Help desk, which assists with library-related and public information inquiries.
- Vice Chairman Williams raises concerns about the negative portrayal of the library in the media and suggests more positive coverage of the mobile library services.
- Natasha discusses the security measures being implemented, including a grant for new cameras and lighting, and efforts to address overnight parking issues.

Quincy Fire Department Recruitment and Community Engagement

- Mike Dade from the Quincy Fire Department discusses the department's recruitment efforts, including the acceptance of applications for new firefighters.
- The application deadline is September 4th, with testing scheduled for September 19th.

- Mike emphasizes the need for public service to reflect the community it serves, particularly encouraging young women to apply.
- The Explorer program for young people aged 14 to 20 is highlighted as a great opportunity for training and resume building.

Quincy Police Department and Blue Envelope Program

- Interim Chief Mike Tyler from the Quincy Police Department discusses the Blue Envelope Program for individuals with autism or other disabilities.
- The program aims to provide officers with information about the individual's condition to improve interactions and responses.
- Chief Tyler mentions the hiring process for new police officers and the importance of recruitment in the emergency services.
- The discussion includes the use of alert cards for individuals with autism and the personal alert form for the 911 center.

Concerns About Police and Fire Department Social Media Posts

- Community Member raises concerns about offensive social media posts by city employees, including firefighters and police officers.
- The posts include comments encouraging civil war and offensive remarks about the LGBTQ community and other groups.
- Community Member emphasizes the need for a standard of conduct and accountability for city employees.
- The discussion highlights the impact of such posts on community trust and the importance of maintaining professional standards.

Public Comment and Additional Concerns

- Community Member thanks the commission for their compassion and consideration, expressing concerns about the gun range and its impact on neighboring communities.
- The secrecy and rushed nature of the land purchase for the gun range are criticized, with calls for better community engagement and consideration of residents' rights.
- Community Member also raises concerns about the treatment of city employees who express dissenting opinions, emphasizing the need for a neutral stand and professional conduct.
- The meeting concludes with a call for action to address these issues and ensure better community engagement and accountability.

Concerns About Blessing Hospital and Social Media Threats

- Vice Chairman Williams suggests writing a letter to the CEO of Blessing Hospital to address concerns about the behavior of their staff.
- Community Member mentions the possibility of the Human Rights Commission investigating the issues.
- Community Member discusses the increasing number of threatening social media posts in Quincy, which have led to a restraining order being sought.
- Community Member highlights the fear and paranoia caused by these posts, including people being visited at their homes at odd hours.

Police Response to Social Media Threats

- Community Member explains that police action depends on the nature of the social media comments, with trespassing being a more actionable offense.
- Commissioner Thompson advises reporting social media threats to ensure they are documented.

- Commissioner Thomson emphasizes the need for police to track and address the increasing number of threatening posts.
- Community Member shares a personal experience where police advised that speaking out against someone could lead to harassment.

Proposals for Community Recovery and Resilience Program

- Commissioner Terry proposes developing a comprehensive community recovery and resilience program to address complex social challenges.
- The program would focus on prevention and long-term outcomes, including expanding access to mental health services and workforce development.
- Commissioner Terry suggests creating a community solutions task force to identify available funding opportunities and prioritize community needs.
- The program aims to strengthen families, reduce emergency responder pressure, and support local businesses.

Discussion on Housing Insecurity and Homelessness

- Vice Chairman Williams reports on the upcoming school year and the challenges faced by the school district, including a shortage of teachers.
- Commissioner Thomson shares updates on the housing insecurity issues, including a recent meeting with the executive director of Illinois Chief Chiefs of Police Community Engagement.
- Commissioner Thomson mentions the establishment of a city council committee to address housing insecurity and the need for additional members from the Human Rights Commission.
- Chairman Philpot introduces Tim Clark, who shares his personal experience with homelessness and the poor conditions of rental units in Quincy.

Tim Clark's Personal Experience with Homelessness

- Tim Clark describes his recent experience with homelessness despite having a job and a place to stay.
- He highlights the poor conditions of rental units, including lack of insulation, cracked windows, and leaking foundations.
- Tim emphasizes the need for better housing conditions to prevent people from becoming homeless.
- He suggests that the city should focus on preventing homelessness rather than just providing temporary solutions.

Melissa Jones' Story of Unfit Housing Conditions

- Melissa Jones shares her experience of renting an apartment at Cedar Creek Crossing, which had unfit conditions that led to her son being hospitalized.
- She describes the property management's failure to address the issues despite multiple complaints and inspections.
- Melissa highlights the financial burden of paying rent for an uninhabitable apartment and the lack of assistance from the city.
- She calls for better enforcement of housing standards and accountability for landlords.

Calls for Action and Accountability

- Community member emphasizes the need for the city to take action to address the poor housing conditions and prevent further harm to residents.
- Community Member calls for a rental registration ordinance to hold landlords accountable and ensure safe housing conditions.

- Chairman Philpot suggests reaching out to the Quincy Housing Authority to address the issues with federal funding and housing standards.
- Community Members discuss the importance of human rights and the need for the city to prioritize the well-being of its residents.

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Chairman Philpot calls for the continuation of the conversation and encourages participants to reach out to their aldermen and the mayor's office.
- Commissioner Reed agrees to serve as a liaison between the Human Rights Commission and the city council to ensure the issues are addressed.
- Commissioner Terry thanks everyone for their participation and emphasizes the importance of taking action to improve housing conditions in Quincy.
- The meeting concludes with a call for continued efforts to address the housing crisis and ensure the rights and safety of all residents.

Discussion on Child's Health and Legal Actions

- Community Member expresses frustration over a child taken to Blessing Hospital, related to what was described as unsafe conditions and the lack of action from authorities to prevent such incidents.
- Community Member mentions the need for someone to take the property owner to court to ensure it doesn't happen again.
- Community Member discusses the frustration of dealing with unsympathetic property owners, which allow unsafe/unhealthy conditions to continue
- Community Member plans to go to local media. on Monday to ask about the next steps, indicating dissatisfaction with the current situation.

Personal Frustrations and Health Issues

- Community Member shares personal frustration with unhealthy conditions at a particular housing development , mentioning an allergy to cats.
- Chairman Philpot thanks Commissioner Reed for his contributions.
- Commissioner Reed discusses the importance of personal conversations and understanding, emphasizing that disagreements should not be misconstrued as lack of humanity.

Code Violations and Child's Health

- Commissioner Reed agrees with Reverend Terry about the need for a code violation related to the child's health.
- Commissioner Reed suggests that if the code violation is not already in place, it should be added to address the issue.
- Commissioner Reed offers potential solutions, including suing the company responsible, despite the financial constraints.
- Commissioner Reed emphasizes the need for solutions and mentions the homeless ordinance and the role of social service agencies in addressing homelessness.

Homelessness and City's Role

- Commissioner Reed discusses the need for the city to play a role in resolving the homeless situation, mentioning the difficulty in getting an accurate count of homeless people.
- Commissioner Reed highlights the Salvation Army's efforts and the need for more shelters, homes, and rental properties.

- Chairman Philpot encourages the audience to continue conversations in the community related to housing.
- Commissioner Reed expresses a desire to keep the conversation going and emphasizes the importance of human dignity and Christian values.

Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Commissioner Reed mentions the need for continued conversations and mutual respect, despite potential disagreements.
- Commissioner Reed discusses the importance of personal interactions and the misconceptions about their Christian values.
- Chairman Philpot thanks everyone for their comments and entertains a motion to adjourn, which is seconded and approved by the group.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm

Transcript

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