

Agenda
Human Rights and Relations Commission
City Of Edina, Minnesota
Community Room, City Hall

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
7:00 PM

- I. Call To Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval Of Meeting Agenda
- IV. Approval Of Meeting Minutes
 - A. Minutes: Human Rights & Relations Commission, February 27, 2024
- V. Special Recognitions And Presentations
 - A. New Commissioners Introduction
 - B. Motions 101
- VI. Community Comment

During "Community Comment," the Board/Commission will invite residents to share relevant issues or concerns. Individuals must limit their comments to three minutes. The Chair may limit the number of speakers on the same issue in the interest of time and topic. Generally speaking, items that are elsewhere on tonight's agenda may not be addressed during Community Comment. Individuals should not expect the Chair or Board/Commission Members to respond to their comments tonight. Instead, the Board/Commission might refer the matter to staff for consideration at a future meeting.
- VII. Reports/Recommendations
 - A. Vice Chair Election
 - B. Commission Correspondence Discussion
 - C. 2024 Work Plan Updates
- VIII. Chair And Member Comments
- IX. Staff Comments
- X. Adjournment

The City of Edina wants all residents to be comfortable being part of the public process. If you need assistance in the way of hearing amplification, an

interpreter, large-print documents or something else, please call 952-927-8861
72 hours in advance of the meeting.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: IV.A.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:

Minutes

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Item Activity:

Subject: Minutes: Human Rights & Relations Commission,
February 27, 2024

Action, Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve minutes from the February 27, 2024, meeting of the HRRC.

INTRODUCTION:

ATTACHMENTS:

HRRC Minutes: February 27, 2024



Stage Agenda
City of Edina, Minnesota
Human Rights & Relations Commission

Edina City Hall, Community Room
February 27, 2024, 8 pm

I. Call to Order

Chair Stringer Moore called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Answering Roll Call: Chair Stringer Moore, Commissioners Khalifa, Ismail, Nelson, Rogers.

Staff Present: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow.

Absent: Vice Chair Bennett, Commissioners Dawkins, Felton and Segall; Student Commissioners Borah and Mohamud-Karie.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Khalifa to approve the February 27, 2024, meeting agenda, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. Motion carried.

Commissioner Felton arrived 8:08 p.m.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Khalifa to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nelson. Motion carried.

V. Reports/Recommendations

A. Chair and Vice Chair Election

- Staff Liaison Straub and Chair Stringer Moore introduced the role of the chair and vice chair.
- Commissioners discussed and nominated other commissioner members.

Commissioner Nelson moved that Commissioner Khalifa serve as the chair. Commissioner Felton seconded.

- Commissioners raised process question regarding voting; Staff Liaison Straub explained the process of putting forward a motion.

Commissioner Nelson withdrew his motion for more discussion.

Commissioner Nelson moved that Commissioner Khalifa serve as Chair. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

- Commissioners discussed nominating and tabling the vote on vice chair.

Commissioner Rogers moved that Commissioner Dawkins to serve as vice chair. Commissioner Nelson seconded.

Commissioner Felton motioned to defer the vote.

Commissioner Rogers withdrew his motion.

- Commissioners discussed tabling the motion, and entertaining new motions for vice chair at the March meeting.

Commission Felton nominated Commissioner Rogers to serve as vice chair. Commissioner Nelson seconded.

- Commissioners discussed preferring moving the vice chair item to the March meeting.

Commissioner Felton withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Nelson moved to table voting on a vice chair to the March meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Felton. Motion carried.

B. Days of Remembrance Event Update

- Commissioner Nelson provided an update on the event, including the finalized title: Genocide in Ukraine: From Stalin to Hitler to Putin.

VI. Chair and Member Comments

- Received.

VII. Staff Comments

- Refresh on motions.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Khalifa moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Felton seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: V.A.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Item Activity:

Subject: New Commissioners Introduction

Discussion, Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

None.

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome new commissioners Joon Park and Jan Stone to the HRRC!



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: V.B.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Item Activity:

Subject: Motions 101

Information

ACTION REQUESTED:

None.

INTRODUCTION:

Staff Liaison Straub will briefly review the procedure for motions and the rationale for them.

ATTACHMENTS:

Motions Presentation



The CITY of
EDINA

Motions

HRRC

March 27, 2024

Why do Commissions use motions?

- Meetings run under modified Roberts' Rules of Order
- Provides clear indication of consensus
- Advances work plan items

There's no one right way to run commission meetings.



What requires a motion?

- Official commission business
 - Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Elections
 - Adjournment
- Some work plan items
 - Charge 1 – Study & Report
 - Charge 3 – Review & Recommend
 - Charge 4 – Review & Decide

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

→ III. Approval Of Meeting Agenda

→ IV. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

A. [Minutes: Human Rights & Relations Commission, January 23, 2024](#)

V. Community Comment

During "Community Comment," the Board/Commission will invite residents to share relevant issues or concerns. Individuals must limit their comments to three minutes. The Chair may limit the number of speakers on the same issue in the interest of time and topic. Generally speaking, items that are elsewhere on tonight's agenda may not be addressed during Community Comment. Individuals should not expect the Chair or Board/Commission Members to respond to their comments tonight. Instead, the Board/Commission might refer the matter to staff for consideration at a future meeting.

VI. Reports/Recommendations

→ A. [Chair and Vice Chair Election](#)

B. [Days of Remembrance Event Update](#)

VII. Chair And Member Comments

VIII. Staff Comments

→ IX. Adjournment

The City of Edina wants all residents to be comfortable being part of the public process. If you need assistance in the way of hearing amplification, an interpreter, large-print documents or something else, please call 952-927-8861 72 hours in advance of the meeting.



How to make a motion

1. Staff or Commissioner introduces a topic.
2. Commission discusses the topic.
3. Chair moderates the discussion.
4. Chair may call for a motion.
5. Commissioner in support of the motion states the action they'd like the commission to take.
6. Chair calls for a second.
7. Another commissioner in support of the motion seconds.
8. Chair calls for a voice vote and states the result.



Elections example

- 1 **Staff Liaison Straub:** The vice chair role supports the chair and fills in as needed. The term is one year, and a decision should be made tonight.

- 2 **Commissioner Avery:** I think Commissioner Bailey would make a great vice chair.
Commissioner Bailey: I'm interested in role! I have good organizational skills and want to help.
Commissioner Christina: I think Commissioner Derek would also make a great vice chair.
Commissioner Derek: Thank you, but I don't think I can take that on this year. I support Commissioner Bailey.

- 4 **Chair Ellis:** I'm hearing a lot of support for Commissioner Bailey. Would someone care to make a motion?

- 5 **Commissioner Derek:** I move that Commissioner Bailey be the next vice chair.

- 6 **Chair Ellis:** Is there a second?

- 7 **Chair Avery:** I second.

- 8 **Chair Ellis:** All in favor?
All commissioners in favor: Aye.
Chair Ellis: Motion carried.



Tips

- State the action you want the HRRC to take. **“I move that [action].”**
- Only one motion may be considered at a time.
- Make a motion once there’s been sufficient discussion.
- Abstentions are rarely needed.
- Voice votes will be used.
- Majority vote rules.
- Avoid unnecessary motions.





CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: VII.A.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:

Other

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Item Activity:

Subject: Vice Chair Election

Action

ACTION REQUESTED:

Elect a vice chair of the HRRC, to serve from March 2024 to February 2025.

INTRODUCTION:

The HRRC will elect a commissioner to serve as vice chair. The vice chair position supports the chair and fills in as needed.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: VII.B.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:
Correspondence, Other

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Item Activity:
Discussion

Subject: Commission Correspondence Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED:

Dependent upon direction of the commission.

INTRODUCTION:

At the January meeting of the HRRC, the HRRC discussed correspondence received and elected to table to discussion on the correspondence regarding land acknowledgments to a future meeting. The correspondence requested the City post the Hennepin County land acknowledgement at City and County facilities. That correspondence is attached.

After discussion, the HRRC can choose to:

- Receive the correspondence.
- Consider work on land acknowledgements as part of the 2025 work plan.
- Request an amendment to the 2024 work plan to begin studying and reporting on land acknowledgement. This would require an approved motion by the commission, drafting an advisory communication to the City Council requesting this amendment to the 2024 work plan, and approval from City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

01 03 2024 Correspondence

Dr. Gorman
4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416

TO--

Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission
City Hall

4801 W. 50th Street

EDINA, MN 55424



55424-133001

MINNEAPOLIS MN 553

28 DEC 2023



12-24-23

Cataloging Policy & Standards Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-4305

Dear Colleagues,

More warrant for creating the LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS subject
heading recommended 8-20-22.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sanford Berman

4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416

952 925-5738

12-24-23

"Readers Write"
Star Tribune
650 - 3rd Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55488

Dear Neighbors,

Here's something to do to that would make local "land acknowledgments" real ("After a nod to stolen land, next steps," Section 3, page 1, 12-24-23). Immediately replace the street and park names for Christopher Columbus and John C. Fremont within Hennepin County. These two indisputable Indian-killers and land thieves should emphatically not be celebrated or honored. They were genocidal maniacs. Their very names contradict and violate the spirit and intention of the land acknowledgments.

With warmest regards,

Sanford Berman
Head Cataloger
Hennepin County Library
1977-1999

Tom Oye Award Recipient, 2019

4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416

952 025-5738

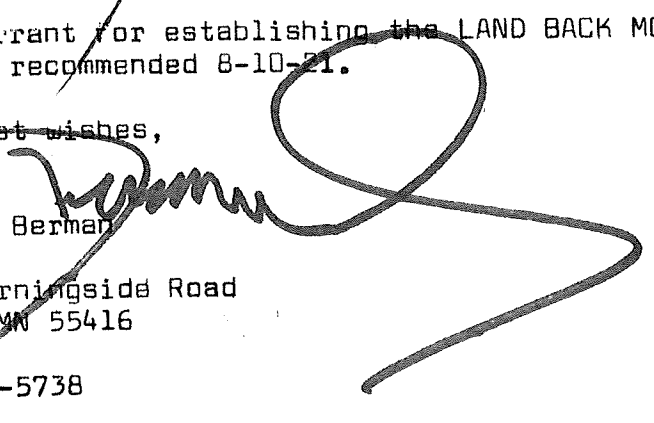
11-21-23

Policy & Standards Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-4305

Dear Colleagues,

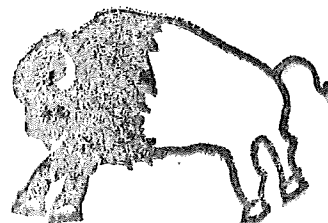
More warrant for establishing the LAND BACK MOVEMENT subject
heading recommended 8-10-21.

With best wishes,


Sanford Berman

4400 Morningside Road
Edina, MN 55416

952 926-5738



First Tribe to Win Land Back from US City

Indigenous

The ancestral home of the **Wiyot Tribe** is located in what is now known as California. It is a beautiful land of marshes, rivers, inland mountains, redwoods and spruce trees. It is on miles of Pacific coastal beach.

It has long been a place of refuge for those who love the natural world. But it has also been the site of the immense tragedies of the Gold Rush. This resulted in the attempted erasure of indigenous life and livelihood by the genocidal policies of 19th-century California.

Central to the **Wiyot's** ancestral land is **Tuluwat Island**. This is a 280-acre island within Humboldt Bay. Today this is the city of Eureka, California.

In 1860, at a **Wiyot** annual ceremony on **Tuluwat Island**, a gang of white settlers massacred a majority of **Wiyot** people. The few survivors of this genocide, moved to **Table Bluff Reservation** in the south region of their homeland.

In 1970 Albert James, the son of a survivor, had a dream of returning to the island. He approached Eureka city officials who ignored his proposal.

But the power of his dream remained. In the 1990s, James' Niece, Leona Wilkinson, and the **Wiyot Tribal Chairwoman**, **Cheryl Seidner** brought the proposal back to life. They hosted open prayer vigils to honor what was lost. They rebuild the heart and power of the **Wiyot** people still on the island. The vigils brought indigenous people together with settlers. They created circles of education and action for justice, restoration, and truth telling.

Then the **Wiyot** discovered that a small part of the island was for sale. The tribe worked with the **Seventh Generation Fund**, to create the **Wiyot Sacred Sites Fund**. They sold T-shirts and art. They hosted community dinners, concerts, celebrations. They maintained a consistent presence in the Eureka community year after year.



After more than a decade, the **Wiyot** were able to buy the small piece of land to heal the tribe. But they always carried with them the dream of the return of **Tuluwat**.

Finally by 2015, the City of Eureka, CA unanimously voted to return the island to the Wiyot. It took four more years to do the legal and administrative work. Finally, on Oct. 21, 2019, the city formally returned Tuluwat Island to the Wiyot Tribe.

This was the first time in the US that a city government gave land back to its ancestral caretakers. It was a profound testament to the power of the organizing strength and vision of the **Wiyot** people.



A small part of the island remains in private hands. But Chairwoman Seidner confirmed that those land owners are peacefully coexisting with their neighbors. They stated, "We know how it feels to be taken away from our land."

Against the violent and genocidal settler colonialist US history, this native victory to restore **Tuluwat Island** to its original owners is remarkable.

From Landback to Future Building by Indigenous Leaders

The **Wiyot** are inspiring leaders in a worldwide movement dubbed **#LandBack**. It protects and restores ancestral lands to the care of Indigenous people.

The **LandBack** movement is born from work that has been done for centuries. It originated with our ancestors fighting to remain within their territories. Using direct action and legal battles, they fought for their right to hunt, fish, and gather on their territories. They also fought to protect our sacred sites and homelands from contamination and desecration by industry.

Justice and healing can emerge in powerful ways when Indigenous lands are in Indigenous hands.

The **Wiyot** Tribe's success with **Tuluwat Island** is a powerful example of the international Indigenous **LandBack** movement. Recently that movement took actions like the **Red Road to DC** journey in 2021. They brought awareness of threats to sacred places. They engaged in direct action and a legal struggle to stop the **Line 3 oil pipeline** from contaminating the Great Lakes. They also introduced the **RESPECT Act** in Congress. It requires federal agencies to consult with tribes for their informed consent **before pursuing any regulatory action that may impact tribes**.

The story of the **Wiyot** tribe's **LandBack** journey continues to inform and inspire others. The return of **Tuluwat Island** and restoration of the tribe's care and guidance is the unshakable foundation of Indigenous-led futures. The foundation honors the land, community and our collective liberation.

Dr. PennElys Droz
Anishinaabekwe
Yes Magazine

★ StarTribune

MINNESOTA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 • SECTION B

"It becomes a way of individuals to signal 'oh, yes, we're trying to think about Indigenous peoples' without actually having to do anything."

Jacob Jurs, a history professor at Century College in White Bear Lake

After a nod to stolen land, next steps

Pair formal words with action, Native leaders say.

By ZOE JACKSON
zoe.jackson@startribune.com

"We are on stolen land" reads a protest sign.

"... Hennepin County acknowledges that the magnificent land and vibrant waterways from which our institutions benefit, are located upon the cultural, spiritual, and Indigenous

homeland of the Dakota Oyate (Dakota Nation)," says an acknowledgment read at the start of County Board meetings.

And on the Guthrie Theater's website: "... we gather on the traditional land of the Dakota People and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations, including the Ojibwe and other Indigenous nations."

Many public events now begin with land acknowledgments — statements written or spoken before everything from artistic performances to county meetings. The statements, which have grown in popularity around the country, aim to recognize the treaty rights that mark Indigenous people as the historical stewards of the land. In Minnesota, at least 150 have been written by churches, local governments and Rotary Clubs.

As land acknowledgments continue to evolve and organizations grapple with the best way to write them, some Native leaders urge connecting them to action.

The nonprofit Native Governance Center, which works with Native nations to strengthen their sovereignty, began hearing more and more about land acknowledgments several years ago, said Wayne Ducheneaux, who recently stepped down from his post

as longtime executive director. Their staff researched how organizations and nonprofits in other countries used them, including in New Zealand, where few meetings begin without them.

They held an informational session on the practice on Indigenous Peoples Day in 2019. Immediately afterward, they were inundated with hundreds of requests for instruction on how to

See LAND on B6 ▶

◀ LAND from B1
write one, from major corporations to grade school teachers, Ducheneaux said.

They published a guide to creating a land acknowledgment that inspired several acknowledgments and projects. Two years later, they followed up with new material called Beyond Land Acknowledgement that focused more on the actual steps that people and organizations can take to support Indigenous communities, he said.

Their guide encourages those looking to undergo the process to begin by looking inward — "if you're delivering a land acknowledgment out of guilt or because everyone else is doing it, more self-reflection is in order," the guide instructs.

The guide says "you shouldn't expect Indigenous people to do this work for you," he said. "It's something that is incumbent upon non-Native folks to take on, the same people say burden, I say the honor and privilege, to do this research and learn about your Indigenous neighbors."

Creating action steps is the most crucial best practice to land acknowledgments, he said. Do you plan to make a donation to a Native-led charity, to attend a protest or commit to learning about land return, the Native Government guide asks.

Then be prepared to take on the work the guide advises.

"Our work after that event and our initial guide has been really trying to help focus on the steps you take to get in relationship with Indian Country, versus just putting out a statement so that you can check a box," Ducheneaux said.

History of the practice

Land acknowledgments first appeared in Australia and New Zealand during the push for aboriginal rights in the 1970s.

In North America, the practice became popular in Canada with the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 2015 government-led report that created a historical record of the country's residential schools system, known as boarding schools in the U.S., said Jacob Jurs, a history professor at Century College in White Bear Lake.

"Out of that, institutions in Canada started to acknowledge Indigenous land," Jurs said. "I think a lot of university institutions started seeing this, and thinking, 'Oh, well, are we doing anything in our communities here in the United States?'"

The Dakota Access pipeline protests during the transition between the Obama and Trump administrations were the largest contemporary protest gatherings of Indigenous people over one issue, Jurs said. With Indigenous

people at the forefront, allies were looking for a way to support, he said.

"They become more politicized and they become more corporatized. So it becomes a way of individuals to signal 'oh, yes, we're trying to think about Indigenous peoples' without actually having to do anything," Jurs said.

Cris Stainbrook, executive director of the Minnesota-based Indian Land Tenure Foundation, began seeing the statements around the same time. At first the foundation, which works to purchase and return previously taken land to Native Americans, stayed away from them completely.

A statement 'isn't enough'

"There's a trend to go and reconsider, 'Oh, we have this acknowledgment statement,' but just acknowledging it isn't enough," Stainbrook said. "In fact people have sent us several and asked us if that's enough action."

The Hopeful Earthkeepers, a group of Minnesota United Methodist Church members working on environmental justice projects, spent two years meeting and developing a 47-page curriculum for Methodist churches or conferences that want statements.

"One of our initial efforts was to connect with our Native American partners in this. And they said, 'Well, it's white people's job to do this

[but] we're glad you're doing it.' ... That was a real key component of our approach," said Bill Konrardy, a member of the group.

Their guide materials include informational documentaries, reflective prayers on decolonization and discussion questions meant to investigate how one's family came to reside on the land.

Reckoning with the past

A major piece of the process was reckoning with whiteness and why the church thought it was OK to take part in genocide and separate children from their families, the Rev. Debra Collum said.

"Part of our theology as Methodists is that we are moving on towards holiness. How do we live as holy people on land that's stolen? How do we do that with any kind of integrity," Collum said.

Collum will send emails with articles or book recommendations to participants to keep them engaged. More than half of the participants followed up with acknowledgments developed following the program, she said.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis made headlines in January for a \$250,000 donation to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. The church read their acknowledgment and asked Stainbrook what he thought of it, he said. The words were

nice, he told them, but what were they going to do about it?

Later, he returned for another presentation and the church surprised him with the check.

"It doesn't have to be money or even big money. It just needs to be something," he said of acknowledgment efforts.

Kristin Lin, a former editor at the Minnesota-based podcast On Being with Krista Tippett, had never written a land acknowledgment before undergoing the process in 2018. When she began thinking of the language for their written and audio statement, she thought about ways to make it more powerful by connecting listeners with both the history of the land and the ways Native communities continue to cultivate a relationship with the land.

The research process was humbling, said Lin, who credited Indigenous Minnesotans for their consultation in the podcast's acknowledgment. By the end, Lin said it felt like something everyone should do.

"I think land acknowledgments should also be an invitation to relate," Lin said. "I found every conversation I had during that time to be so generous. ... I'm very thankful for everyone who participated."

Zoe Jackson • 612-673-7112
On X: @zoemjackson

NATIONAL
MUSEUM
of the
AMERICAN
INDIAN

© Smithsonian

12-27-23

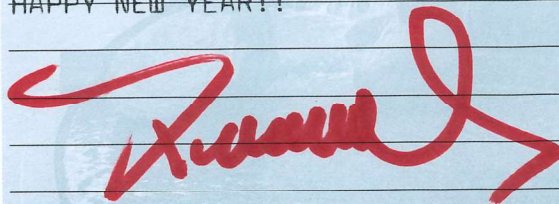
Dear Neighbors,

I heartily suggest that the
Commission:

*recommend to the City of Edina
that the County's land
acknowledgment (or a shortened
version of it) be posted at
all city-owned facilities,
as well as the two county
libraries

* urge the Edina School Board to
withdraw the suspension of the
two Somali-American students
and apologize to both of them
(Inasmuch as "From the river to
the sea" is emphatically not
genocidal or antisemitic)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

A red handwritten signature, likely of a Native American, is written in cursive across the bottom of the letter. The signature is bold and expressive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Name	Instagram Handle	Languages	Type of Content
Bisan	wizard_bisan1	EN	Film/Content maker on the ground updates
Ahmed Hijazi	ahmedhijazee	AR, en subt	Posting updates mostly al shifaa hospital
Motaz Azaiza	motaz_azaiza	EN, AR	Photo and video journalist posting continuous on the ground updates
Hind Khoury	hindkhoudary	EN, AR	Journalist posting and writing updates
Plestia Alaqad	byplestia	EN, AR	Journalist posting daily updates from Gaza
Ahmed Aborjelaa	aborjelaa	AR, en subt	Video maker capturing testimonials of people
Afaf Ahmed	afafpoll_	EN	Journalist posting situational updates
Rahaf Shamaly	rahafmarwan19	EN, AR	Artist posting updates from Gaza
Yousef Mema	joegaza93	EN, AR	PICU nurse, freelancer, social media activist
Solmaq Shaheen	shoraa_shaheen	EN, AR	Journalist posting and writing updates
Refaat Alareer	refaat17	EN	Writer and journalist reporting from Gaza
Mohammed Zaanoun	m.z.gaza	EN	Photo journalist on the ground in Gaza
Wissam Nassar	wissamgaza	AR	Photo journalist also posting videos daily
Sara Al Saqqa	sara_alsaqqa	AR	Surgeon at al shifaa hospital
Meera Adnan	meera.adnan.label	EN	Designer and writer updating in Gaza
Salma Shurrab	salma_shurrab	EN	Digital content creator in Gaza
Doaa Rouqa	doaa94	AR	Journalist reporting from Gaza
Motasem Mortaja	motasem.mortaja	AR	Photo and video journalist reporting
Roshidi Sarraj	roshdi.sarraj	EN	Filmmaker posting updates from Gaza
Abdelkhleem Abu Rash	abedelhkeem_abu_rash	AR	Photographer posting updates
Mahmoud Afana	mahmoudafana_	AR	Content creator posting updates
Belal Khaled	belalkh	AR	Artist posting updates
Fares M Anbar	faressol2	EN, AR	Artist posting updates from Gaza
Ali Jadallah	alijadallah66	EN, AR	Photographer capturing stories in Gaza
Gaza Medic Voices	gazamedicvoices	EN	First hand accounts from medical workers
Yara Eid	eid_yara	EN	Gazan journalist posting from London

It's **not** Nazareth it's Al Nasra
It's **not** Acre it's Akka
It's **not** Beit She' an it's Bisan
It's **not** Tel Aviv Yafo it's Yaffa
It's **not** Jaffa, it's Yaffa
It's **not** Hebron it's Al Khalil
It's **not** Jerusalem it's Al Quds
It's **not** Jericho it's Areeha
It's **not** Lod it's al-Lydd
It's **not** Bethlehem it's Bayt Lahm
It's **not** the Negev it's al-Naqab
It's **not** Beer Sheva, it's Bir As-Saba'
It's **not** Tiberias, it's Tabariyya
It's **not** Gush Halav, its Al-Jish



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to the Mayor's column

To the Editor:

Mayor Hovland rightly condemns antisemitism and the atrocities committed on Oct. 7 by Hamas in his column, "Observations from a mayor – Kfar Aza," published in the Nov. 2 issue of the Sun Current. He is also right to call for a ceasefire to stop what is now unfolding in Gaza and already merits a simple descriptor (though he doesn't invoke it): Genocide.

However, the Mayor's lament over the deep pain and suffering of Is-

raeli Jews lacks the moral impact it might otherwise have had if he also:

- denounced the frequent marches through Jerusalem by settlers and Orthodox Jews chanting "death to the Arabs!"

- criticized the recent decision to expel more than 25,000 Eritrean and Sudanese asylum-seekers from Israel, the government describing these Black Africans as unworthy "economic migrants" rather than victims of oppression

- desecrated the continued imprisonment of 5,000 Palestinians, about 1,400 of them being jailed indefinitely without charges or convictions

- questioned the influential impact on U.S. foreign policy of the many Christian Zionists who mightily seek to restore totally Jewish dominion over Biblical Israel – that is, a Holy Land free of Arabs – in order to fulfill Biblical prophecies and ultimately get themselves (but not unconverted Jews) "raptured" to heaven

- similarly examined the outsized role of Israeli religious fanatics who hope to re-annex "Judea & Samaria" (The Occupied Territories), placing all of Biblical Israel under Jewish dominion, and who successfully pressured the Knesset to

declare Israel a "Jewish state" despite 20% or more of the population not being either ethnically or religiously Jewish

- disassociated himself from longtime Prime Minister Golda Meir's declaration, which still informs much of Israeli policy – that "There was no such thing as Palestinians"

- acknowledged, with dismay, the shared findings of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem that Israel is an apartheid state

So, mazel tov!, Mr. Mayor, on calling for an immediate ceasefire. And perhaps you'd agree on

the wisdom of a mutual prisoner-and-hostage release, as well as the prompt end of the occupation itself.

Shalom!
Salaam!

Sanford Berman
Edina

CURRENT
EDINA 121370

Copyright © 2023 by APG of East Central Minnesota, is published weekly by APG of East

Central Minnesota, 10917 Valley View Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3730. Business, Editorial, and

Circulation Offices: 10917 Valley View Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3730. Accounting Offices: 4095 Coon Rapids Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433-2523. Call 763-712-3544 to subscribe. Periodical rates paid at Hopkins, MN.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sun Current Edina, 4095 Coon Rapids Blvd. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433-2523.

APG of East Central Minnesota
Sun Newspapers
10917 Valley View Rd.,
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Telephone: 952-829-0797
current.mnsun.com

Circulation and delivery:
763-712-3544
servicecenter@apgem.com

Business advertising:
952-392-6800
advertiser@apgem.com

Deadline: 5 p.m. Fridays
952-392-6888
Place a classified:
Deadline: 3 p.m. Mondays

Send news items or letters to the editor to:
alex.kautzman@apgem.com

News deadline: 5 p.m. Thursdays. Include your complete contact information with any editorial submission.
Legal advertisements:
763-691-6001;
publicnotice@apgem.com

Announcements: Obituaries, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, births, learn photos. 952-392-6875.
Deadline: 5 p.m. Thursday.

Community Editor
Alex Kautzman:
alex.kautzman@apgem.com
952-392-6848

Senior Editor
Alaina Rooker:
alaina.rooker@apgem.com
763-424-7394

Opinion Exchange

Commentaries are selected to present a range of perspectives and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Star Tribune Editorial Board.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Oct. 7 denial is dangerous to decency, truth

And as history shows, we are all at an inflection point.

By STEVE HUNEGS

Oct. 7 denial — like Holocaust denial — is riding menacingly high this holiday season. For some, the Hamas barbarism is a subject of dispute. For others — judging by their reaction (or lack thereof) — it is a matter of indifference.

In either case it is a profound challenge to decency and truth.

It is why — at the request of Israel's Consulate in Chicago — I hosted a screening of the Hamas atrocity video compiled largely from the bodycam, cellphone and social media posts of Hamas terrorists.

As reported in the Star Tribune and other media, opinion leaders and journalists were invited to bear witness. It was not an ask made lightly. The scenes are grotesque.

In one moment, a Hamas terrorist decapitates a dead Israel soldier and walks away with the head as though he is cradling a ball. We also watched as a young boy of about 11 — who just witnessed his father murdered — wall from his kitchen floor, "Daddy, daddy, God, why am I alive," as the Hamas terrorist nonchalantly raided his refrigerator for a snack.

Still later, we heard a terrorist boast to his parents by cellphone that he just killed 10 Jews.

It is the stuff of nightmares. Of course, it is the lived experience of Israelis and others (including Americans) from throughout the world who were murdered, raped, tortured and mutilated on Oct. 7, and the over 100 who are still being held hostage by Hamas.

The urgent need to screen the atrocity video is on display only a few miles away at the University of Minnesota. There the Gender Women and Sexuality Studies issued a "Faculty Statement on Palestine" on Oct. 16.

In the inverted world of this statement, Hamas terrorists are "fighters" conducting an "excursion" into Israeli territory in which no mention is made of murder, beheadings, rape, burning people alive or hostage taking. The statement outrageously assails "global media coverage [for]

reproduce[ing] Islamophobic tropes of terrorism and unsubstantiated claims of 'uncivilized' violence."

After two months on the College of Liberal Arts website (in violation of university policy dealing with statements, which apparently the administration is loath to enforce) Oct. 7 denial is alive and well at the University of Minnesota.

The university is hardly alone in its historical revisionism or uncharacteristic reticence. It took the United Nations until December to recognize the vast and collective sexual assault perpetrated by the Hamas terrorists on Israeli women on Oct. 7.

The existence of this denial is atrocious. Even more sobering, it is symptomatic of something far worse.

According to the December Harvard/Harris Poll, among Americans aged 18-24, 67% agree that "Jews as a class are oppressors," 60% believe the Oct. 7 atrocities were justified, 51% say, "Israel should be ended and given to Hamas and the Palestinians," and 50% support Hamas more than Israel (fortunately, according to the same poll, Americans overall reject these beliefs).

Nearly 80 years after the end of World War II, a majority of young Americans — the future leaders of our nation — believe the killing of Israelis and the termination of the Jewish state is acceptable and justifiable, while an overwhelming majority cling to a deeply antisemitic trope. We are all at an inflection point.

The JCRC and our Jewish communal colleagues are working tirelessly to address this surging tide of Jew-hatred, but this is not a problem for Jews alone to solve. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught, "[t]he hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews. Antisemitism is the world's most reliable early warning sign of a major threat to freedom, humanity, and the dignity of difference. It matters to all of us. Which is why we must fight it together."

There is fortunately some guidance for the path ahead.

After the Shoah, the Catholic Church promulgated the Nostra Aetate, which directly addressed church antisemitism. Nearly every Protestant denomination adopted its own version of the Nostra Aetate since the 1960s. Such theological reset, outreach and peacemaking has thrust Christian-Jewish relations into an upward trajectory — particularly in North America and Europe.

One difference is that the appalling views of young Americans are not religious based. Are they cultural, social, educational or incubated in social media?

The prevalence of young people marching and sloganeering with the genocidal, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," on campuses and in high schools may mean it is all of the above.

Judging from our own University of Minnesota and the polling cited above — there is a leadership and moral clarity deficiency which must be addressed.

Steve Hunegs is executive director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

War of words obscures horror of real war

Anger over a phrase is a distraction from Israel's retribution.

By MARY CHRISTINE BADER

Two Edina High School students were suspended last month for chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!"

At American universities, administrators are punishing student demonstrators who chant the same thing.

And when U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., the only Palestinian-American in Congress, invoked those words, she was censured by her colleagues.

It is a war of words, diverting attention from a real war whose most recent battle started with a massacre of some 1,200 Israelis and the kidnapping of 240 Israeli hostages by Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza.

Gaza is where more than 2 million Palestinians live in a virtual prison imposed by Israel. In revenge for the massacre by Hamas, Israel has besieged, bombed and invaded Gaza, laying waste to much of the territory and killing an estimated 20,000 Palestinians — the majority children and women.

The disproportionate casualties and even greater imbalance in weapons of death and destruction are finally getting attention — even among members of Congress who are currently considering the Biden administration's proposal to give Israel an additional \$14 billion as it crusades to destroy Hamas. Never mind the "collateral damage" of tens of thousands of civilians (or "vermin," as one Israeli official called them). Israel is waging a war of retribution — collective punishment that looks like genocide.

And so, Israel partisans attempt to divert our attention — and our eyes — with a war of words. The 10 words, "From the river, to the sea Palestine will be free," are said to threaten genocide for Jews. So, what do those 10 words mean? Well, that depends. Just like the fraught history of the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, those words mean different things to different people.

To ardent Zionists, Israeli settlers, the Jewish diaspora and others, the chant calls for the end to a Jewish state and elimination of Jews from the entire area of historic Palestine. In the chant they hear threats of another Holocaust.

Not incidentally, Israel already controls all the area between the river and the sea. In their 1948 war of independence, the Israelis took 78% of Palestine. Then, in 1967, they occupied and began moving Jewish settlers into Gaza and the West Bank — the remainder of historic Palestine. The charter of Israel's Likud party declares there will be only Israeli sovereignty (read: one state) between "the Sea and the Jordan [River]." And it is good to remember that Israel has enshrined Jewish supremacy in its foundational Basic Law.

To Hamas and others who may wish or seek the destruction of the Jewish state, the chant might seem like a call to arms for those whose weapons are vastly inferior to those of the well-armed Jewish state. To fix on only that meaning of the chant, however, is to doom any resolution of the long Palestinian-Israeli war to a zero-sum game of them-or-us.

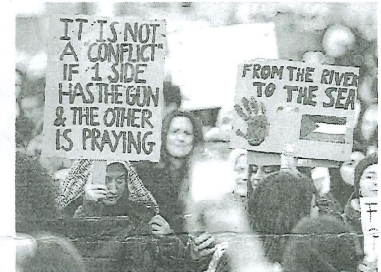
But to Rashida Tlaib and to many others, the chant expresses hope they will one day be free to live as equals in all of Palestine, their historic homeland. They will not be confined to disconnected areas in the West Bank or imprisoned in Gaza or live as second-class citizens of a Jewish state. They envision Palestinians and Jews living together in a single state, not a Jewish state but a state of all its citizens.

That is an aspiration that we, as Americans, should support. It is not, however, what our country currently supports. Our policies support Israeli supremacy and the subjugation of Palestinians.

When I hear Americans chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," I hear echoes of the American civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome," the song that powered the movement for racial justice and equality in America. In the 1960s, some of the strongest voices singing that song at marches belonged to American Jews. Many of those same justice-driven Jews are marching and chanting with the Palestinians today. They know there is still so much injustice to be overcome.

Words are powerful. They can change the subject or they can change the world. "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is an urgent call to change the world.

Mary Christine Bader is a writer in Wayzata.



BORIS ROESSLER • Associated Press

Young women hold placards during a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Frankfurt, Germany, Nov. 3.



TAMIR KALIFA • New York Times
A charred Hanukkah menorah is seen at a home in Kissimmee, an Israeli kibbutz near the Gaza border that was heavily damaged in the Hamas attack on Oct. 7.



CITY OF EDINA

4801 West 50th Street

Edina, MN 55424

www.edinamn.gov

Date: March 26, 2024

Agenda Item #: VII.C.

To: Human Rights and Relations Commission

Item Type:
Report and Recommendation

From: Gillian Straub, City Management Fellow

Subject: 2024 Work Plan Updates

Item Activity:
Action, Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve Days of Remembrance Resolution.

INTRODUCTION:

The Commission will discuss updates on initiatives 6: Days of Remembrance Event and 7: Review and Propose Revision of Days of Remembrance

Resolution. Approval of the Days of Remembrance resolution is requested, in order to present the revised resolution for City Council adoption before the May 15th event.

ATTACHMENTS:

2024 Work Plan

Proposed Revision to Days of Remembrance Resolution



Copy of Human Rights & Relations Commission Work Plan

2024 Commission Work Plans

Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024

Report Created On: Mar 18, 2024

Copy of Human Rights & Relations Commission Work Plan

2024 Commission Work Plans

Report Created On: Mar 18, 2024

Gillian Straub

Plan Label And Number	Description	Tags	Target Completion Date	Deliverable	Status	Last Update Date	Last Update
Commission Name 1.5	Human Rights & Relations Commission The Commission advises the City Council on matters relating to discrimination and human rights, and organizes educational programs and other community events to highlight and address human rights issues.				Status Pending: 71.43% On Track: 28.57%		
Initiative 1.5.1	Sharing Values, Sharing Communities Event Determine topic at least four months in advance of the scheduled event. Topic to be mental health, LGBTQIA+ or ageism focused.	Charge 5: Event	Q4	Plan and host event in 2024.	Status Pending		
Initiative 1.5.2	Review bias and discrimination event response. Review and propose update as needed to the bias and discrimination event response in accordance with legislation and best practices. Respond to bias or discrimination events as plan prescribes.	Charge 3: Review & Recommend	Q4	Reviewed and if needed, propose update of bias and discrimination event response.	Status Pending		
Initiative 1.5.3	Build connections with community organizations and report on community awareness of bias and discrimination event reporting. Engage with organizations to exchange information, assess community awareness and educate on bias and discrimination event process.	Charge 4: Review & Decide	Q4	Create standardized presentations and materials for HRRC presentations to community organizations, including on bias and discrimination event response.	Status Pending		
Initiative 1.5.4	Engage with Edina Police Dept on bias-related and demographic data. Meet with EPD quarterly on bias-related or demographic data.	Charge 4: Review & Decide	Q4	Increased engagement with EPD.	Status Pending		
Initiative 1.5.5	Tom Oye Award Coordinate and select one recipient for the Tom Oye Award.	Charge 4: Review & Decide	Q4	Tom Oye award winner selected and recognized.	Status Pending		

Plan Label And Number	Description	Tags	Target Completion Date	Deliverable	Status	Last Update Date	Last Update
Initiative 1.5.6	Days of Remembrance Event Coordinate Days of Remembrance to be held in accordance with the national 2024 Days of Remembrance on Monday, May 6.	<div>Charge 5: Event</div>	Q2	Plan and host 2024 Days of Remembrance event.	On Track	Mar 18, 2024	Commissioners selected a title and revised the poster. Commissioners will continue to provide feedback as media and communication tools, including posters and press releases, are developed.
Initiative 1.5.7	Review and propose revision of Days of Remembrance resolution Review resolution language for Days of Remembrance and propose changes as needed	<div>Charge 3: Review & Recommend</div>	Q2	Reviewed language for Days of Remembrance and potentially proposed changes.	On Track	Feb 23, 2024	Commissioners reviewed draft of revised resolution language at the January 23, 2024, meeting and will continue the discussion at the March meeting.

Proposed Revision to Days of Remembrance Resolution

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European ~~Jewry~~ Jews, Gentile Poles, Slavs, Soviets, ~~Gypsies~~ Romanis, ~~the mentally ill, the deaf, the physically disabled and mentally retarded~~ persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, homosexuals, transsexuals, political opponents and religious dissidents by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, with 17 million murdered; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies and governments; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the City of Edina should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, genocide, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, despite the lessons of history, acts of genocide are to this day being perpetrated in many parts of the world and horrific crimes motivated by bias are being committed in this country; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the City of Edina should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

WHEREAS, the Days of Remembrance are set aside annually, occurring in April or May, to coincide with the national celebration of Yom Hashoah for the people of the City of Edina to remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples and continuing vigilance against bias and genocidal acts; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Act of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designate annually the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Edina does hereby recognize and continue to promote the

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Edina will work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.