

**Human Relations Advisory Group Meeting
Highland Park Police Department**

March 12, 2026

5:00 PM

Agenda

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, a Regular Meeting of the Human Relations Advisory Group of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at the Highland Park Police Department, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, Illinois during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion.

Individuals with questions or feedback about an agenda item can address the Advisory Group in the following ways:

1. **Emails for the Record.** [Email Christina Earle](#), the Human Relations Advisory Group staff liaison. If you wish to have your comments read into the record, limit your communication to 200 words or less. Public comments received by 3:00 PM the day of the meeting will be read under Business from the Public. Public comments should contain the following information:
 - • In the subject line, identify, “HRAG Meeting – Read into the Record”
 - • Name • City • Address (optional) • Phone (optional) • Organization, agency representing, if applicable • Topic or agenda item number of interest
2. **Emails with Unlimited Information.** Individuals who do not wish to have their comments read into the record can email Christina Earle an unlimited number of words. Emails will be forwarded to the Human Relations Advisory Group if requested.
3. **Telephone.** Individuals with no access to email may leave a message with Staff Liaison Christina Earle at 847.926.1861 by 3:00PM the day of the meeting.
4. **Live Comments.** Individuals are able to address the Advisory Group during the meeting. Questions/comments are limited to written testimony into the record or spoken comments, not both. Comments should be limited to three minutes or less.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

A. January 8, 2026 Regular Meeting

IV. Business from the Public (Individuals wishing to be heard regarding items not listed on this agenda)

V. Old Business

A. MLK Day of Service (WP1)

- 2026 Event Debrief
- 2027 Timeline and Action Plan

B. HP Awards Ceremony (WP2)

VI. New Business

VII. Other Business

A. City Staff Update

B. Chairman Update

C. Advisor Comments

VIII. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK,
ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: Highland Park Senior Center, Room 1
1207 Park Ave, Highland Park, IL

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:04 PM, Chair Canchester called the Human Relations Advisory Group (HRAG) regular meeting to order and Staff Liaison Earle called the roll.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair Canchester, Members Harris, Jasenof, Lynch, Tiersky, Weiner, Weisskopf

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Buzard, Member Klayman, Luger

Also Present: Council Liaison Lidawer; Student Liaisons Dubin, Goldstein; Staff Liaison Earle, Alternate Staff Liaison Ford; Assistant City Manager Jason

Chair Canchester declared a quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW OF 2026 WORK PLAN

- (a) Chair Canchester asks all group members to introduce themselves (Name, brief intro about themselves, & goals for the group).

Chair Canchester outlined the MLK Day of Service as the biggest annual event the group is responsible for planning.

Member Harris outlined the goals of Community Conversations and updated that Harris and Luger will be leading small discussions.

Staff Liaison Earle gave an overview of the group's role in the Highland Park Awards and Humanitarian Award, including managing the relevant ceremony.

Chair Canchester noted that other group duties are assigned as needed, such as consideration of the Place of Remembrance and Statement Against Hate.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- (a) Approval of the December 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Staff Liaison Earle noted a correction for the spelling of Vice-Chair Buzard's name.

Member Tiersky moved to adopt the minutes. Member Harris seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Canchester declared the motion passed.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

(a) 2026 MLK Event Discussion (WP1)

Assistant City Manager Jason informed the group that MLK Day of Service was featured on the cover of the Highlander. Chair Canchester discussed the possibility of coordinating with Glencoe for the event. The group decided to reach out again and include them in earlier discussions and planning for the 2027 event. Chair Canchester updated the group that Ravinia Festival Reach-Teach-Play would like to be contacted in the fall on participating in the 2027 event.

Staff Liaison Earle outlined outreach efforts and noted that questions centered on what ages were appropriate to attend the event. Group discussed scheduling a time for participant feedback.

Member Harris noted they hold a separate student-led event that day with a focus on education.

Event set up was scheduled for the 18th and Lidawer and Lynch volunteered to make the floor map. Lori Fink set to greet dancers and speakers on the day of the event. Chair Canchester offered to connect with dancers on set up and sound needs.

Staff noted that they are waiting on an update from the King Center on use of the "I Have a Dream" speech audio.

Student Liaison Dubin informed the group that the student project would be letters to teachers. Member Weisskopf suggested offering credit to students who come or help with events.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) 2026 Humanitarian Award Nomination Discussion (WP2)

Chair Canchester noted that the School district foundation did not qualify for the award since it is generally reserved for individuals. The group discussed candidate qualifications and the reviewing process. Feedback submissions are due on January 23rd and the award ceremony date is set for April 23rd.

Alternate Staff Liaison Ford presented the Humanitarian Award Plaque.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) City Staff Update

Staff Liaison Earle informed the group that City Council will make a proclamation on MLK Day and that there would be a "Goodbye West Ridge" Open House on January 10th. Members were reminded to Organizational Interest Disclosure form.

(b) Chairman Update

Chair Canchester informed the group that Saturday was the orientation for student commissioners for the group. Chair Canchester read in Vice-Chair Buzard's remarks on the Humanitarian Award nominations and question on remote attendance. Council Liaison Lidawer clarified that remote attendance is prohibited by the state outside of specific circumstances.

(c) Advisor Comments

Member Harris shared that there would be a gathering downtown on Saturday as a peace vigil for ICE awareness.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Canchester entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Member Lynch and seconded by Member Tiersky. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the members present. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Parker Ford
Administrative Program Specialist

DRAFT