



Human Relations Advisory Group Meeting Highland Park Police Department

August 13, 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, August 13, 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 Megan Cherry](#), 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 Megan Cherry 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 Megan Cherry at 847.926.1045 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. May 14, 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

VI. New Business

- A. 2027 Meeting Schedule Discussion
- B. 2027 Work Plan Discussion
- C. HP Awards

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: May 14, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: Highland Park Police Department
1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL 60035

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:00 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, Vice-Chair Buzard, Members Harris, Jasenof, Klayman, Lynch, Tiersky, Weiner, Luger, and Weisskopf

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Student Liaisons Babalola and Werner; Staff Liaison Cherry and Earle, Alternate Staff Liaison Ford; Park District Representatives Greenberg, Mayor Rotering, Council Member Lidawer, Assistant City Manager Jason.

Chair Canchester declared a quorum was present. Chair Canchester welcomed new Student Liaison Werner and new Staff Liaison Cherry and opened the floor for introductions. Meeting etiquette was reviewed.

CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

- I. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting, as amended

Amendments were made to the MLK Day of service subcommittee task list.

Vice-Chair Buzard moved to adopt the minutes. Member Klayman seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous. Chair Canchester declared the motion passed as amended.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- (a) MLK Day of Service (WP1)

The group viewed a video of a draft speech for a potential speaker for the 2027 MLK Day of Service and discussed potential edits. The group also discussed the benefit of having a separate speaker recite the "I Have a Dream" speech in addition.

Vice-Chair Buzard moved to approve the proposed speaker and give Members Tiersky and Weisskopf approval to move forward with finalizing the presentation. Member Klayman seconded the motion. Voice vote, unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Statement Against Hate Discussion

Assistant City Manager Jason introduced the topic and background for discussion. Alternate Staff Liaison Ford presented on the Statement Against Hate and posed discussion for the group on general feedback on the statement, key words to highlight from the statement, and ideas for promoting and meaningfully using the statement in the future. The group provided feedback that a shorter statement would be useful for promotion and submitted worksheets with proposed key words and notes on the statement. Alternate Staff Liaison Ford informed the group that a response survey would be sent out to gather feedback on the proposed key words and any further notes on the statement.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) City Staff Update

Staff Liaison Cherry provided an update on the Place of Remembrance and informed the group that drop in opportunities were open to provide feedback on the proposed designs. She also let the group know that the Memorial Day Ceremony was scheduled for May 25 at 11 AM at Highland Park High School. Assistant City Manager Jason invited advisors to participate in the Independence Day parade.

(b) Chairman Update

- a. None.

(c) Advisor Comments

- a. Council Liaison Lidawer informed the group that the annual planning workshop was scheduled for the following Monday, which begins with a review of the Statement Against Hate.
- b. D112 Liaison Fink invited advisors to the D112 board meeting and shared that students will be added to the school board next year. She also gave an update on assessable playground and general playground remodels coming soon, and shared that there is yoga at the Ravinia Farmers Market on Wednesdays at 11 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Canchester entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Member Jasenof and seconded by Member Tiersky. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the members present. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Parker Ford
Administrative Program Specialist

**A RESOLUTION SETTING THE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK**

WHEREAS, Act 120 of Chapter 5, Illinois Compiled Statutes, requires the Human Relations Advisory Group to give public notice of its schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY GROUP OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION ONE: That the Human Relations Advisory Group of the City of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, adopts hereby the public notice of its regular meetings in the following form:

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Human Relations Advisory Group of the City of Highland Park will convene at the Police Department. The group will meet at 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, Illinois, to conduct its regular meetings during calendar year 2026 upon the following dates:

Thursday, January 14 at 5:00 PM

Thursday, March 11 at 5:00 PM

Thursday, May 13 at 5:00 PM

Thursday, August 12 at 5:00 PM

Thursday, October 14 at 5:00 PM

Thursday, December 9 at 5:00 PM

SECTION TWO: That the Secretary of the Human Relations Advisory Group of the City of Highland Park be and is directed hereby to post a copy of the Public Notice contained in this Resolution in the City Hall and to supply copies of this Notice as and in the manner provided by law.

SECTION THREE: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

RESOLUTION NO:

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chairperson

Group: Human Relations Advisory Group



FY2027 ADVISORY GROUP

WORK PLAN SUBMITTAL

Jurisdiction and Purpose:

The Human Relations Advisory Group ("HRAG") was established by Resolution R166-2019. The mission of the HRAG is to support community programs to improve the quality of life; and provide advisory recommendations related to developing effective solutions to social problems and opportunities related to equality and social justice.

Advisory Group Members:

• Paul J. Canchester, Chair • David A. Buzard, Vice Chair • Janea D. Harris • Ian Jasenof • Deborah Lynch • Terri Tiersky • Lori Flores Weisskopf • Stephanie Luger • Ben Klayman • Joshua Weiner	• Annette Lidawer, Council Liaison • TBD, Township Representative • TBD, Park District Representative • Lori Fink, NSSD 112 Representative • Oluwadara Babalola, HPHS Student Liaison • Zoey Werner, HPHS Student Liaison • Megan Cherry, Staff Liaison • Parker Ford, Alternate Staff Liaison
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The Human Relations Advisory Group shall meet at the Police Department, six times annually as necessary.

FY2027 Objectives

Martin Luther King Day of Service:

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the HRAG, in conjunction with the Park District of Highland Park, will host the Martin Luther King Day of Service. The 2027 event is scheduled to be held in-person.

- Plan, implement, and evaluate a successful Day of Service, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Plan, implement and evaluate follow up community conversations throughout the year beyond the HRAG.

Highland Park Awards Ceremony:

To acknowledge the amazing residents of Highland Park, the 2027 awards ceremony is scheduled to be held in-person.

- Solicit, accept, and comment on Humanitarian Award nominations. Submit feedback to be reviewed by City Council, for selection of award recipients.
- Explore alternative venue options for the ceremony.
- Explore opportunity to create and implement a Community Hero Award as appropriate.
- Plan, implement, and review the Highland Park Awards Ceremony, together with the Character Counts Steering Committee.

Assist with Relevant City of Highland Park Program Roll Outs and Community Input Gathering

Staff will be working on a variety of major projects and will seek assistance from the HRAG on initiatives that align with the mission.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

RESOLUTION NO:

ATTEST:

Secretary

Chairperson