

# OKLAHOMA CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

### SUMMARY

This report describes the key accomplishments and activities of the Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission in its second year of operation.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Official meetings	6
Number of attendees <sup>1</sup>	105
Complaints received <sup>2</sup>	57
Speaker events	3
Other engagement activities	2

<sup>1</sup>Estimated based on video recordings of meetings and other notes.

<sup>2</sup>Number of complaints or inquiries as of December 31, 2024.

#### **1. Meetings and educational events**

- Held six public meetings at variety of venues and times to increase accessibility
- Hosted 3 educational events:
  - [Bystander Intervention Training](#) with Veronica Laizure
  - Human Rights in Housing: Fairness, Security and Solutions in OKC with Mary Daniels Dulan, Jamie Caves, and Katie Dilks
  - [Human Rights in Housing: Examining Local Opportunities for Advocacy and Action](#) with Greg Beben, Jenna Pilcher, and Lisa Chronister
- Celebrated Human Rights Day through interactive posters at all City libraries
- Compliance Officer and Chair participated in a Tenant Right to Counsel Sprint with partners at Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, OCU Law School HELP Clinic, Neighborhood Services Organization, and Oklahoma Access to Justice Foundation
- Compliance Officer and Chair met with representatives of the Attorney General's Civil Rights Division to establish referral relationship and explore co-sponsorship of programs

#### **2. Complaints**

- Received 57 complaints or inquiries about discrimination as of December 31, 2024

- Referred 39 complainants to partner agencies, including the EEOC and HUD
- 18 complaints were incomplete or outside of our jurisdiction with no referral necessary (e.g., had already submitted complaint with another agency).

### 3. Strategic planning for 2025

- Strengthen relationships with partner agencies to improve efficiency of referral process
- Increase public engagement through educational opportunities and outreach
- Continue topical focus on housing as a human right, including examining opportunities for research and advocacy in support of housing issues

#### Commission contacts:

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#### Human Rights Commission Members:

At-Large Chair — Valerie Couch

Ward 1 — Ralph Crawford

Ward 2 — Cindy Nguyen

Ward 3 — Barbara Peck

Ward 4 — Dr. Leslie VanBuskirk

Ward 5 — Stephanie Holloway (pending)

Ward 6 — Deisy Escalera

Ward 7 — Dr. Marsha Dempsey Herron

Ward 8 — Brian Ferguson