BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

300 School Street, North Wales, PA 19454
Phone: 215-699-4424 ° Fax: 215-699-3991
http://northwalesborough.org

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

Johanna Owings
Kathleen Kiely
Emily Kohler

Call to Order
Date and Time
Roll Call
Pledge of Allegiance

1. Public Comment

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2. Consideration: Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2025, and May 21, 2026

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3. Discussion: Partnership with LHRC & Letter from PHRC

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4. Old Business / New Business

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Adjournment

*All interested parties may participate on the date and time noted above and when called upon by the Chair. The public may also submit questions or comments prior to the meeting by e-mail to info@northwalesborough.org; these must be received no later than 12 Noon on the day of the meeting. Persons with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting and require auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact North Wales Borough at 215-6994424 or by e-mail to info@northwalesborough.org.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: October 16, 2025, 7:00 P.M., ET

CALL TO ORDER made by Johanna Owings at 7:04 PM ET

ROLL CALL:	Johanna Owings	Present
	Melanie Catanese	Present
	Emily Marbot	Present

Johanna Owings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None -- No other North Wales Borough residents participated in the meeting

Old Business

Meeting minutes from the prior meeting on February 20, 2025, were not available for review during the meeting. Will request a draft and review at next meeting.

New Business

HRC has one current vacant position, and two members have terms set to expire at the end of 2025. The Commission discussed the recruitment of new members to the HRC and decided to ask North Wales Borough to advertise vacancies.

The Commission discussed possible ideas to increase HRC's presence in the North Wales Borough. They thought a good approach would be to request input from the Borough Manager and solicitor to help them act within the HRC ordinance to engage the community and support borough residents.

Member Owings made a motion to adjourn. Member Marbot seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES
300 SCHOOL STREET
NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: May 21, 2026, 7:00 P.M., ET

CALL TO ORDER made by Johanna Owings at 7:01 PM EDT

ROLL CALL:	Johanna Owings	Present
	Kathleen Kiely	Present
	Emily Marbot	Present

Johanna Owings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None -- No other North Wales Borough residents participated in the meeting

Consideration: Appointment of Member Owings as HRC Chairperson
Member Marbot made a motion to appoint Member Owings as Chairperson to the HRC. Member Kiely seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Consideration: Appointment of Member Owings

Chairperson Owings made a motion to appoint Member Kiely as Secretary to the HRC. Member Marbot seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Consideration: Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2025

Chairperson Owings made a motion to approve the minutes for February 20, 2025. Member Marbot seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

The Commission welcomed new HRC member Kathleen Kiely!

The Commission discussed the North Wales Borough HRC ordinance as well at history of HRC in North Wales.

Member Owings made a motion to adjourn. Member Marbot seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

pennsylvania
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

April 24, 2026

Dear local human relations commission (LHRC) members,

We are reaching out to share an important exciting update. Moving forward, The Office of the Hearing Examiners (OHE) will now serve as your primary liaison to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC). This update is to assist with fostering strong relationships in protecting the people of the Commonwealth through anti-discrimination enforcement.

We are committed to supporting you in understanding Pennsylvania civil rights protections. To assist in this effort, we offer **free training** on a variety of topics, including:

- **PHRC Overview & How to File a Complaint**
- **Pennsylvania Human Relations Act Basics**
- **Mediation 101**
- **Adjudicatory Preparation 101**

In addition, we provide free consultation services for local ordinances regarding anti-discrimination protections. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission can also engage in collaborative approaches in enforcement, to include workshare agreements.

As neutral adjudicators, the Office of the Hearing Examiners cannot discuss any specific cases or provide guidance on specific case-related matters. However, if there are case specific questions, the Office of the Hearing Examiners can refer you to the correct person or division within the PHRC.

If you are interested in scheduling a training, collaborating on outreach, or simply learning more about how we might support your work, please feel free to contact us at RA-HRADJUDICATION@pa.gov .

Thank you for your dedication to protecting civil rights in your community. We look forward to partnering with your human relations commission.

Sincerely,

Darlene Martin, Esq. & Tamara Shehadeh-Cope, Esq.
Office of the Hearing Examiners
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

PA Human Relations Commission
555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210 | (717) 787-4410 | phrc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania
Human Relations Commission

September 8, 2025

Dear HRC Members,

On behalf of the **Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC),** I extend my warm greetings and gratitude for the work you do every day to advance civil rights and strengthen community relations across our Commonwealth. Together, our shared mission is to foster inclusive, equitable, and just communities where all Pennsylvanians can thrive.

In the spirit of collaboration and continued partnership, I am pleased to share with you three important documents that reflect the Commission's progress and direction:

- **PHRC Annual Report** – highlighting the Commission's achievements over the past year and the impact of our collective efforts to enforce civil rights laws and promote education and outreach.
- **No Hate in Our State Report** – detailing discrimination and hate trends seen nationally and statewide. It also offers information about the programs and initiatives offered by the PHRC to help eliminate hate and build a community of support and understanding.
- **PHRC 5-Year Strategic Plan** – outlining our vision and priorities for the years ahead, including strengthening local partnerships, addressing disparities across rural and urban communities, and expanding educational and outreach initiatives.

I also want to highlight the important work of **PHRC's Civil Rights Outreach Division**, which is actively building stronger partnerships throughout the Commonwealth, with the goal of creating a coordinated network that advances education, and outreach at the state and local levels. Your Commission plays a vital role in this effort, and we look forward to expanding these working relationships.

In addition, I encourage you to explore the resources and opportunities available through PHRC to support your efforts.

- **Training Programs** designed to support organizations, schools, and communities in addressing discrimination and fostering equity.
- **Outreach Materials** on a variety of topics such as general discrimination, education discrimination, housing discrimination, and more. These materials are available to share with your communities:
- **Upcoming Events** and access to recording of our previous events**,** including educational and social justice programs.

These resources, combined with our reports and ongoing initiatives, are intended to strengthen our shared work and provide support that can be adapted to your communities.

As we move forward, the PHRC remains committed to deepening our collaboration. Your role is critical in ensuring that civil rights are protected and that discrimination has no place in Pennsylvania. I welcome opportunities for dialogue, shared learning, and joint initiatives that advance our common mission.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to justice. PHRC Chief of Staff Zulay Rojas will be reaching out to schedule virtual introductory meetings to discuss how we might continue to strengthen our partnership.

With appreciation and respect,



Chad Dion Lassiter, MSW
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission