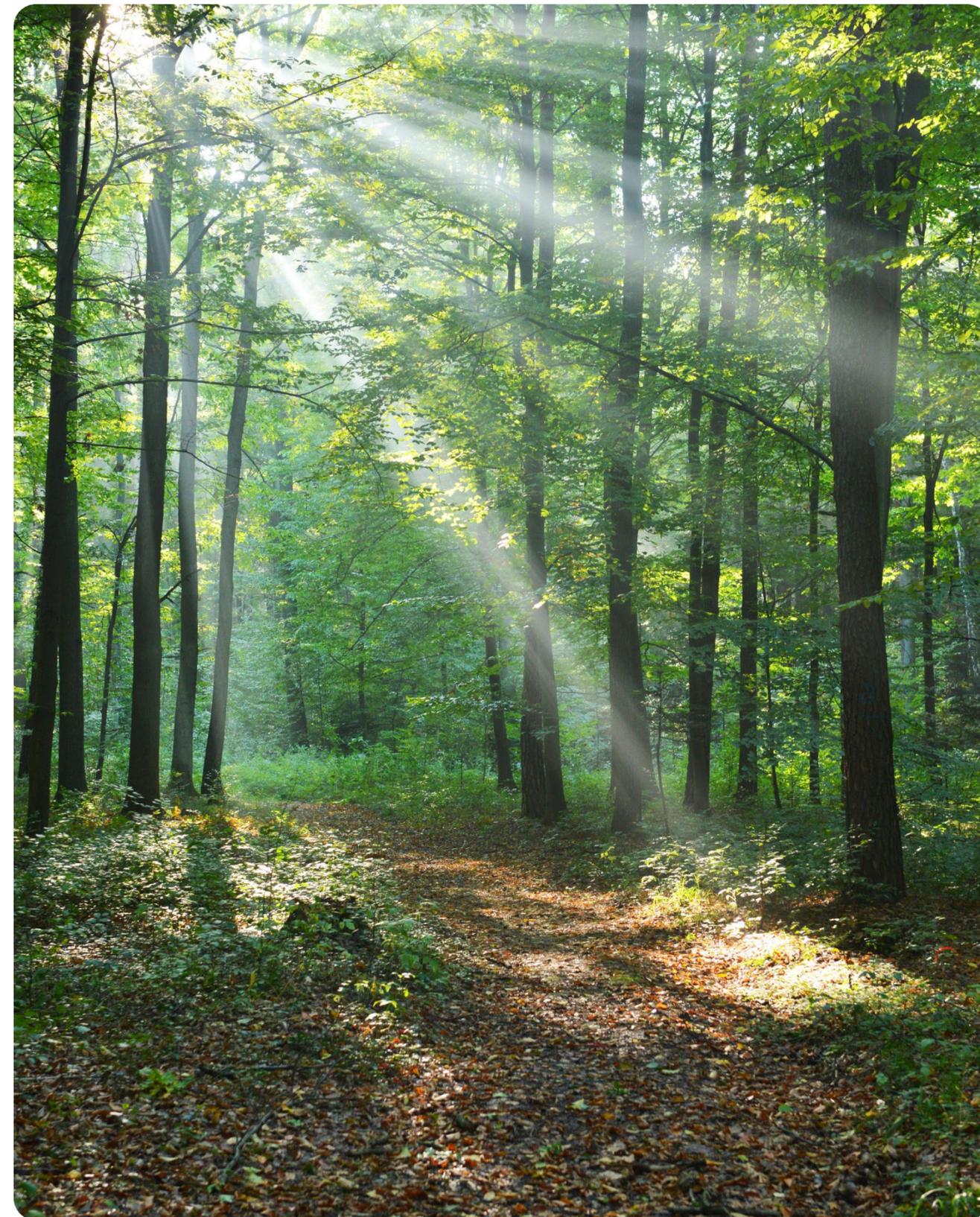


Grand Rapids
Human Rights Commission
Est. 2004

Human Rights at Home:

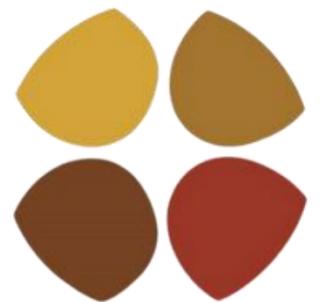
THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION





Human Rights Matter Here

- Human rights are everywhere – they show up in housing, schools, jobs, public spaces, and daily interactions.
- Minnesota has one of the strongest Human Rights Acts in the country - EVERY PERSON is covered and protected
- Our city ordinance mirrors that law because rights only matter if they are known, understood, and accessible locally.
- A Human Rights Commission exists to help bring visibility, accessibility, and meaning to law in every day community life.



Our Legal Foundation

- Established May 24, 2004 under City Code Division 2-V-6.
- One of 5 local City commissions north of the metro
- We are a 9-member Commission
 - All-volunteer
 - Appointed by City Council.
 - Three-year terms, renewable
- Role is education, awareness, listening, and advising
- Not an enforcement or investigative body

Our mission is to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all





Our Purpose

- Recognize and prevent discrimination and inequalities in the daily life of the community
- Design or support educational programs
- Assist in the implementation of the ordinance
- Provide leadership
- Serve as an advisory body to the City





Who is “protected”?

It is illegal to discriminate on the basis of:

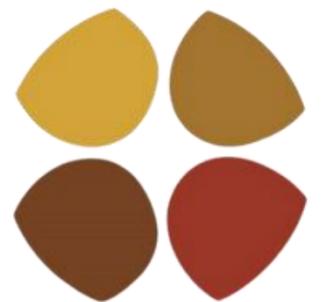
- Race
- Color
- Creed
- Religion
- National Origin
- Sex
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Status with regard to public assistance
- Disability
- Age

The Minnesota Human Rights Act (363) prohibits discrimination in:

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Public Accommodations
- Public Services
- Credit Services

Actions & Support Highlights

- School and youth engagement through presentations coordinated with the GRHS and Civics Class
- Event support: Juneteenth, Indigenous Peoples Day, Pride
- Presentations and outside speakers
- Disability and accessibility advocacy
- Community conversations



2026 Vision: Guiding Themes

- Community Awareness
- Education & Outreach
- Our Role (clarity & consistency)
- Collaboration
- Listening to Community



2026 Priority Activities

- Community presentations (schools, service clubs, faith groups, businesses)
- Community dialogue opportunities (Story Stitch or Braver Angels)
- Fair housing education
- Visibility at Pride, Indigenous Peoples Day, Soup on the Street, Stomp on Stigma
- Ongoing ordinance and role clarity work



Funding Reality

- Historically, the City has provided modest but meaningful support (e.g., \$7,500 in recent years).
- 2026 is the first year in recent memory with no allocated funding, due to fiscal constraints and the goal of a 0% levy following federal cuts.
- The work continues – but partnership, collaboration, and community support matter more than ever.



How You Can Be A Part of the Work

- Attend our meetings
- Invite us to present
- Partner on events
- Share concerns or experiences
- Apply to serve as a commissioner
- Help connect people to resources
- Help amplify voices that are often unheard



We're Here to Listen

Join our meeting

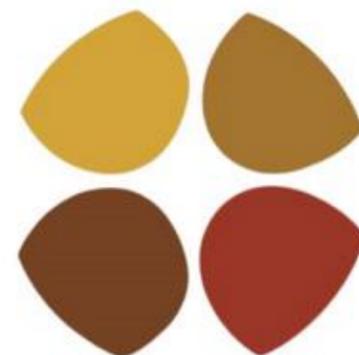
Held every last Wednesday of the month
Held at City Hall in the City Council Chambers
420 N. Pokegama Ave | Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Call us

(218) 326-7646

View our Commission Page

Snap the QR code or visit:
<https://cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/bc-hrc>



Grand Rapids
Human Rights Commission
Est. 2004