

Dear Chair Falcone and Esteemed Members of the Governmental Processes Committee,

On behalf of the Human Relations Commission, we would like to thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring a strong and effective governance structure for our city. We value the work being done to strengthen and elevate the voices of our diverse communities, and we are grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback on the recent memo regarding the commission's structure and appointment process.

After reviewing the proposal, the Human Relations Commission respectfully submits the following points of feedback for your consideration:

1. **Retaining 15 Commissioners:** We strongly recommend maintaining the number of commissioners at 15. This structure ensures broad representation across the many diverse segments of Riverside's population, allowing us to better serve and address the needs of our community.
2. **Timely Filling of Vacancies:** We also urge that commissioner vacancies be filled promptly. Delays in filling these vacancies can hinder the commission's ability to function effectively and meet the growing demands of our community. Timely appointments are crucial to maintaining continuity and ensuring that all segments of the population are represented.
3. **Non-Voting High School Student Commissioners:** In addition, we propose the appointment of two non-voting high school student commissioners. Involving younger voices in the work of the commission would foster early civic engagement and provide valuable perspectives on issues that affect the youth of Riverside. Our current bylaws lists them as members, but we have not seen them be appointed.

Lastly, we would like to express our preference to retain the current structure of the Human Relations Commission as a standalone entity. Combining the commission with others could dilute its focus and undermine its mission to directly address the unique issues facing our community. We believe that maintaining the commission as it is will continue to allow us to serve Riverside effectively.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to collaborating with you to further strengthen our city's governance and inclusivity.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Human Relations Commission  
City of Riverside