



**Harris County LGBTQIA+ Commission**  
lgbtqia.harriscountytexas.gov

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** the Montrose Center and Zoom (Hybrid)

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Victoria Cordova, Maria Gonzalez, Brandon Mack, Kevin Nguyen, Giovanni Rosselli and Diamond Stylz

**Absent:** Ramiro Fonseca, Mo Jenkins, Brad Pritchett, Kylie McNaught

**Harris County Staff:** Talya Morris and Austin Davis Ruiz

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Commission Vice Chair Brandon Mack called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**II. Public Comment**

- a. A community member, Alex Diepraam, joined the meeting to listen and learn more about how to get involved in the local LGBTQIA+ community.

**III. Commission Updates**

- a. Jeremy Edwards resigned on XXX. Any questions related to the community engagement committee, which Jeremy chaired, should be directed to Brandon Mack.
- b. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo nominated Thomas J. Lopez to fill the seat vacated by Jeremy Edwards. The Harris County Commissioners Court will vote on Lopez's nomination on March 27. Lopez is a human resources leader, a board member of the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce, and the host of a podcast about LGBTQ+ history called "Let's Talk About Gay Stuff."

**IV. Harris County Sheriff's Office Policy and Law Enforcement Liaison**

- a. At a follow-up meeting on Feb. 24, the Harris County Sheriff's Office shared its ongoing internal outreach efforts to recruit applicants to serve as liaisons. Harris County Precinct 4 staff will circle back with HCSO on the status of establishing liaisons throughout the agency.
- b. Harris County Precinct 4 staff and Commission officers shared resources with HCSO, including Out to Protect, national education and training for law enforcement agencies, and the Blue Book Resource Guide by the Ryan White Planning Council.

## **V. Committee Updates**

### **a. Communications**

- i. The communications committee chair shared a new volunteer intake form for feedback and distribution on the Commission's website and social platforms.

### **b. Advocacy**

- i. The Banned Book Fair will be held on Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Barbara Bush Branch Library. The event is in partnership with the Harris County Public Library.
- ii. The next steps include the advocacy committee circulating a planning document with an event outline and a list of potential banned books, partners, vendors, and activities. The run-of-show could include book authors, elected officials and community leaders, tabling space for partner resources, story time for different age groups and donated books.
- iii. Maria Gonzalez, an advocacy committee member, drafted a solicitation letter to book publishers to consider donating banned books to Precinct4Forward.

### **c. Community Engagement**

- i. Brandon Mack will temporarily be leading the community engagement committee and will work on establishing regular committee meetings. Brad Pritchett and Ramiro Fonseca will serve on the committee.

## **VI. Adjournment**

- a. The vice chair adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.