

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**  
Community Engagement Commission  
City Hall  
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

**AGENDA**  
November 17, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. ROLL CALL:  
Julie Ebbesen\_\_\_\_ Denise King\_\_\_\_ Sarah Caflisch\_\_\_\_ Emily Schmall\_\_\_\_
- STAFF PRESENT:  
Elke Johnson\_\_\_\_
- COUNCIL LIAISON:  
Melanie Leehy\_\_\_\_
- C. WELCOME
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
• October 20, 2025, Community Engagement Commission Meeting Minutes
- F. AGENDA  
• Unfinished business  
    1. Human Rights Day
- G. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENT
- H. ADJOURNMENT:

*Next Regular Meeting is on Monday, December 15 at 6:30 PM*

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**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**  
Community Engagement Commission  
City Hall  
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

**MINUTES**

October 20, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:34 PM
- B. ROLL CALL:  
Julie Ebbesen\_X\_ Denise King\_X\_ Sarah Caflisch\_X\_ Emily Schmall\_X\_
- STAFF PRESENT:  
Elke Johnson\_X\_
- COUNCIL LIAISON:  
Melanie Leehy\_X\_
- C. WELCOME
- Schmall introduction
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- Johnson - Suggested change to order of unfinished business
  - Note that Apartment Outreach on the agenda is supported by Commissioner Recruitment information so the topic will be covering Commissioner Recruitment
  - Motion - Ebbesen - approved unanimously
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
- August 18, 2025, Community Engagement Commission Meeting Minutes
    - Item 1 - c - King mentioned shred event - did not suggest
    - Item 3 - c - King surprised
    - Motion for approval with amendments - Ebbesen - approved unanimously
- F. AGENDA
- Unfinished business
    1. Human Rights Day  
with Special Guest Philando's Pantry
      - a. Philando's Pantry
        - i. Thomas Barry Director of Philandos' Pantry and Minneapolis NAACP chapter
        - ii. Larry Smith -
        - iii. Started July 16<sup>th</sup> this year, have done 4 food drives today, 100 tons of food delivered to date, 1200 families/5000 people, 10

nationalities. Response to USAID funding decrease. Food from Denver to here - they pay. Currently serving Brooklyn Center

- iv. Goal to make sure people have access to food and decency.
  1. Planning to double the amount of food in future due to decrease in SNAP benefits and
  2. 28 tons supplied approximately 200 families/900 ppl.
  3. King clarifies NAACP funds the truck (\$2,600 per trip), Amazon is providing the food due to inventory surplus.
  4. Barry - clarifies that the organization has gone to the counties and cities to help fund getting more storage.
  5. Leehy clarifies that Philando's Pantry needs to distribute the food and goods directly to the families
  6. 5013© supported under the watch foundation that includes food, counseling and other social services.
- v. Ask to the CEC - How can we partner. Is there space, is there a way that we mesh the connection between the City of Falcon Heights and Philando in a positive way
- vi. Leehy - gives background on how she was connected with Philando's Pantry
- vii. Caflisch - feedback - Bravo!
- viii. Johnson - For human rights day we can include Philando's Pantry in Human Rights Day
- ix. Leehy - Human Rights Day could be a good networking opportunity for Philando's Pantry and the other providers we have
- x. King- educating the public that PP is available supporting people in need as well as share with FH residents ways that they can help
- xi. Leehy requests a Philando's Pantry calendar that we can share at the event
- xii. Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> will be the day we are holding the Human Rights Day event
- xiii. Leehy will follow up with Philando's Pantry to coordinate attendance
- xiv. PP representatives depart
- b. Caflisch has contacted Good Acre, U of M Nutritious U food shelf, Falcon Heights Elementary, Keystone. U of M cannot participate
- c. Leehy mentions Every Meal and how it started. Current founder is ailing, possibly have a dedication to him. King suggests that Every Meal does that in their presentation.
- d. King - each organization gets a 5-10 minutes to give a background, identify and meet the need and what the ask is form the attendees (volunteer, donate food, donate money, etc.), create context around the discussion. Let's determine the take aways that the commission wants attendees to understand.

- i. Leehy adds that the organizations should educate attendees on food insecurity and aspects of nutrition. Possibly some type of display that would show a family and what their meal is.
    - ii. 5 slides
      - 1. Who you are and what you do
      - 2. What is your ask
      - 3. What aspects of food insecurity do you cover?
    - iii. Presenters should send slides in by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. Leehy – Falcon Heights UCC also has a food shelf
  - f. King – add Fair for All
  - g. Potential Good Acre, Keystone, Philando’s Pantry, Every Meal, possibly Fair for All
  - h. Details – Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:00 at City Hall focusing on food security. Johnson will look into getting saturation mailers for the event
  - i. Leehy will provide hot apple cider
  - j. Johnson will create graphics to share with the community and include a save the date in the fall newsletter and include somewhere on the website. Website will be updated as we have more information to share
  - k. Caflisch can contact the organizations
  - l. King and Schmall will organize proposed agenda and script for the ask
  - m. King suggests Leehy MCs the event
  - n. Leehy will reach out to Thomas Barry and Every Meal
  - o. Leehy would like to have a handout with information about the participating organizations and others to give to the attendees.
  - p. Reach out by 11/3, confirm participation 11/21, Submit Slides 12/1
- 2. Apartment Outreach
  - a. Use Human Rights Day
  - b. Schmall suggest closing the presentation with a call for commissioners to join
  - c. Johnson has added a deadline to the commissioner applications to (a) drive activity and
- New Business
  - 3. Neighborhood Liaisons
    - a. Need to recruit those people who are well connected in the community
    - b. Confusion about sharing of liaison information. City hall can tell residents who their liaison is but the information is not published.
    - c. King – knows that we have a gap between the number of streets and the short number of names on the active liaison list.
    - d. King will check with her neighbors to see if there is a list in her neighborhood, Ebbesen will be added to the list.
    - e. Johnson – her neighborhood has a facebook group that is a central
    - f. Situations where a list is valuable
      - i. Utilities

- ii. Crime Watch
- iii. Storms & outages
- g. Caflisch - have a quick program at other events that recognizes commissioners and/or liaisons to give visibility to liaison and commissioner positions. Raise the profiles of the opportunities.
- h. Leehy suggests a neighborhood scavenger hunt
- i. Schmall - likes the idea and agrees that including recognition in the newsletter. Maybe just once a month or so as a recruitment tool.
- j. Caflisch - recognize at beginning of events - thanks to commissioners and liaisons in helping our city soar.
- k. Leehy used to host a once a year networking "meeting"
- l. King - please add to the November agenda - hosting a neighborhood liaison networking meeting in March or April.

G. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENT

H. ADJOURNMENT: 8:27 PM

- King moves to adjourn - approved unanimously

*Next Regular Meeting is on Monday, November 17 at 6:30 PM*

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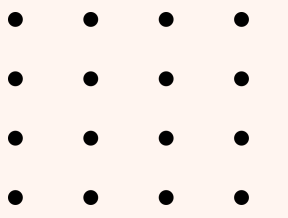


## REQUEST FOR ACTION

<b>Meeting Date</b>	November 17, 2025
<b>Agenda Item</b>	Human Rights Day
<b>Attachment</b>	N/A
<b>Submitted By</b>	Elke Johnson Administrative & Communications Coordinator

<b>Item</b>	Human Rights Day
<b>Description</b>	<p>Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the <a href="#">Universal Declaration of Human Rights</a>.</p> <p>Because the Community Engagement Commission (CEC) is comprised of the Human Rights Day Commission and Neighborhood Liaison Commission, they have organized a Human Rights Day Event in the past.</p> <p>At its August 18 meeting, the CEC selected <b>food distribution and insecurity</b> as the theme for Human Rights Day. The committee discussed inviting local organizations to provide education on food insecurity and recruiting volunteers to support food distribution efforts. The event is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, <b>December 9</b>.</p> <p>Below is some data on food insecurity in Ramsey County:          According to the Food Insecurity Dashboard, a tool created by the University of Minnesota, the food insecurity rate in Ramsey County was 13% in 2023.  <a href="https://hfhl.umn.edu/fooddashboard">https://hfhl.umn.edu/fooddashboard</a></p> <p>The Roseville Reader reports the following: Approximately 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 5 children in Ramsey County are food insecure. There are 2,392 people in Roseville enrolled in SNAP and 252 enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) as of Oct. 28, 2025, according to data provided by Ramsey County to the Roseville Reader. For the whole 55113 zip code (which includes Roseville, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, and Little Canada), the numbers jump to 3,233 enrolled in SNAP and 357 enrolled in MFIP. People receiving MFIP benefits also receive SNAP, but those numbers are not duplicated in this data. <a href="https://www.rosevillereader.com/how-the-looming-loss-of-snap-funding-impacts-roseville/">https://www.rosevillereader.com/how-the-looming-loss-of-snap-funding-impacts-roseville/</a></p> <p>Ramsey County Open Data notes Food insecurity in Ramsey County          In 2022, 11% of Ramsey County residents were food insecure, while the state average was 9%. Although more recent data has been hard to track, the ripple</p>

	<p>effects of inflation, policy changes and other factors have most likely contributed to higher rates than the 2022 data. Inconsistent access to nutritious food contributes to social, behavioral, and educational challenges in children, mental health conditions, and the development of chronic diseases in adults and older adults.</p> <p>Food insecurity among children and older adults:          Nearly twenty percent of Ramsey County children (or 1 in 5) were estimated to be food insecure in 2022, which is dramatically higher than the state's average.</p> <p>In 2022, 35% of Ramsey County's children under the age of 5 participated in <a href="#">WIC</a> (Women, Infants, Children) compared to 23% state-wide. Children who are racially and ethnically diverse are more likely to benefit from WIC than their white counterparts. 33% of WIC recipients in Ramsey County are Asian, 29% are Black/ African American, 21% are Hispanic/Latino and 6% are Multiple Race, whereas 9% the county's WIC recipients are white. Children under the age of 18 are also the largest age group that benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) comprising 37% of the county's program participants.</p> <p>Adults 55 and older are the second-highest group after children, with 20% of SNAP recipients. As the population ages, these rates are expected to increase. Adults over 65 are the fastest-growing age group of Ramsey County residents. <a href="https://opendata.ramseycountymn.gov/stories/s/Food-Security/9cfd-sn87/">https://opendata.ramseycountymn.gov/stories/s/Food-Security/9cfd-sn87/</a></p> <p>This is an opportunity to continue to discuss the Human Rights Day event.</p>
<b>Budget Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Attachment(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Rights Day Poster</li> </ul>
<b>Action(s) Requested</b>	Staff recommends starting discussions for the Human Rights Day Event



# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY & FOOD INSECURITY

12% of Ramsey County residents were food insecure in 2023. Food insecurity continues to rise; come learn how you can help organizations fill in the gaps.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

## Event Details:

- Lighting round presentations by local organizations on how you can help
- Donations & Food Drive
- Hot Cider

**Falcon Heights City Hall  
2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.**

