RICHARDSON
TEXAS

COMMUNITY INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION (CIEC)
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026, 6:30 PM
1302 E. COLLINS BLVD., RICHARDSON, TX 75081
THE IQ®HQ - EVENT ROOM SUITE #400

Closed Executive Session Authorized
As authorized by Section 551.071 (2) of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session to seek confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any listed agenda item.

Meeting Information
This Commission meeting will be audio recorded. The audio recording and transcript will be available as soon as possible after the meeting, generally within 24 hours on the City website at www.cor.net/CITV.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS OR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
4. **AGENDA ITEMS (PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION ITEMS, ACTION ITEMS, PUBLIC HEARINGS)**
   - A. **GASTON GROUP TRAINING PRESENTATION - Building Bridges with Citizens**
     - I. **Strengthening Community Connections Workshop for CIEC members focused on practical tools for strengthening citizen relationships, communicating with empathy and clarity, navigating difficult conversations, and building trust through consistent, transparent engagement.**
5. **REPORT ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**
   The City Council will have an opportunity to address items of community interest, including: expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the City of Richardson; information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the City of Richardson that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a member of the City Council or an official or employee of the City of Richardson; and announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the City of Richardson that has arisen after posting the agenda.
6. **ADJOURN**

I CERTIFY THE ABOVE AGENDA WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT THE RICHARDSON CITY HALL ON JULY 10, 2026, BY 5:30 P.M.

NORMA MENDOZA
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

{All Boards/Commissions}
ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY CONTACTING THE ADA COORDINATOR, VIA PHONE AT (972) 744-4168, VIA EMAIL AT ADACOORDINATOR@COR.GOV, OR BY APPOINTMENT AT 2360 CAMPBELL CREEK BLVD., SUITE 525, RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75082.

MINUTES
COMMUNITY INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION (CIEC)
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
CIEC MEETING AT 6:30 PM
1302 E. COLLINS BLVD., RICHARDSON, TX 75081
THE IQ®HQ - EVENT ROOM SUITE #400

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Varma called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Rashmi Varma	Chair
Kristen Ceaser	Vice Chair
Audrey Oatis	Member
Niranjan Hanumanna	Member
Siraj Akhtar	Member
Hisham Syed	Member
Victoria Hortman	Member
Gildardo Zafra	Member

The following member was absent:

Amy Singh	Member

The following council liaison was present:

Jennifer Justice, Council Liaison

The following staff members were also present:

Greg Sowell	Director of Communications
Norma Mendoza	Administrative Secretary
Yvonne Falgout	Director of Parks & Recreation
Susan Talbot	Senior Center & Program Manager
Jonathan Winters	Superintendent of Recreation
Kayla Johnson	Placemaking Manager
Michaela Dollar	Assistant City Manager

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board/Commission Action
Member Hanumanna moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member Oatis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION: SENIOR CENTER SERVICES

DRAFT

Susan Talbot and Jonathan Winters provided an overview of the services and programs offered by the Senior Center. They highlighted recreational, educational, health and wellness, and social engagement opportunities available to older adults. The presentation also provided an overview of current offerings, participation opportunities, and the center's role in supporting active and connected aging.

5. PRESENTATION: CULTURE IN THE CORE

Michaela Dollar provided an overview of the programming and marketing activities related to the annual Culture in the CORE event. She asked for feedback on ways to improve attendance at the event. Feedback included having vegan food vendors, food sampling, advertising on Reddit, and more performances based on culture. The branding name Culture in the CORE does not describe what the event is. Maybe adding the word festival to suggest a huge celebration.

6. PRESENTATION: DAYS OF RECOGNITION

Greg Sowell presented to the Commission the City's approach to recognizing cultural and civic observances with recommendations for future recognition reflecting community diversity while remaining consistent with City policy. Greg explained the city's current policy is anchored to federal and state government standards, rooted in constitutional government neutrality requirements that restrict cities from promoting or inhibiting religion. Feedback was sought to report to City Council on whether the City should include mention of events/times of year based on religious significance. After lengthy discussion, Vice Chair Ceaser made a motion that the City should not include the mention of events/times based on religious significance. Member Oatis seconded the motion. Member Hortman, Member Zafra, Member Oatis and Vice Chair voted for the motion. Chair Varma, Member Akhtar and Member Syed opposed the motion. Member Hanumanna did not vote as he left the meeting early. Vote was 4-3. Greg will provide the information to City Council with the feedback the Commission would like to revisit this topic again in the future.

7. REPORT ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Jennifer Justice shared that the Healthier Texas Community Challenge Walk and Run Event is Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., Huffines Park, 300 N. Plano Rd.

Richardson's annual Trash Bash event is scheduled on Saturday, April 11th, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church, 503 N. Central Expressway.

Crowley Park Neighborhood Association has their International Food Fest from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2026. It's just for their neighborhood but they do welcome guests.

Jennifer asked the Commission Members to get the word out about the Bond and Charter Open Houses that are scheduled for April 4th and April 11th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. each of those days. There is a guide available for review if citizens are interested.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

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RASHMI VARMA
BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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NORMA MENDOZA
BOARD SECRETARY