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# City of Topeka HRC

## Human Relations Commission

- Established in 1961
  - Mission: To ensure fair and equal rights to all citizens of Topeka in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodation.
  - Goal: To proactively address discrimination, real or perceived, using conflict resolution skills as a first (and sometimes final) step to resolve issues in covered areas.
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# City of Topeka HRC

## Staff

- Rio Cervantes-Reed, Executive Director
  - Linda Hardesty, Office Assistant III
  - Bobby Wilkerson, Civil Rights Investigator (EEO)
  - Chuck Wilson, Human Relations Specialist (ADA)
  - Jessica Brown, Civil Rights Investigator (FHEO)
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# City of Topeka HRC

## Commissioners & Terms

- **Bill Beachy, Chair** 12/05-11/07, 12/07-11/09
  - **Michael Bell, Vice-chair** 01/05-12/06, 01/07-12/08
  - **Anthony Fadale** 08/05-08/07, 09/07-08/09
  - **Sharon Joseph** 12/06-08/07, 09/07-08/09
  - **Anna Lambertson** 12/07-11/09
  - **Margo Rangel** 02/06-02/08, 03/08-02/10
  - **Joshanna Stone** 12/07-01/09
  - **Lorean Williams** 05/04-04/06, 05/06-04/08,  
05/08-05/10
  - **Susan Zuber-Chall** 12/07-11/09
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# Commissioner Photos



Bill  
Beachy



Michael  
Bell



Anthony  
Fadale



Sharon  
Joseph



Anna  
Lambertson



Margo  
Rangel



Joshanna  
Stone



Lorean  
Williams



Susan  
Zuber-  
Chall



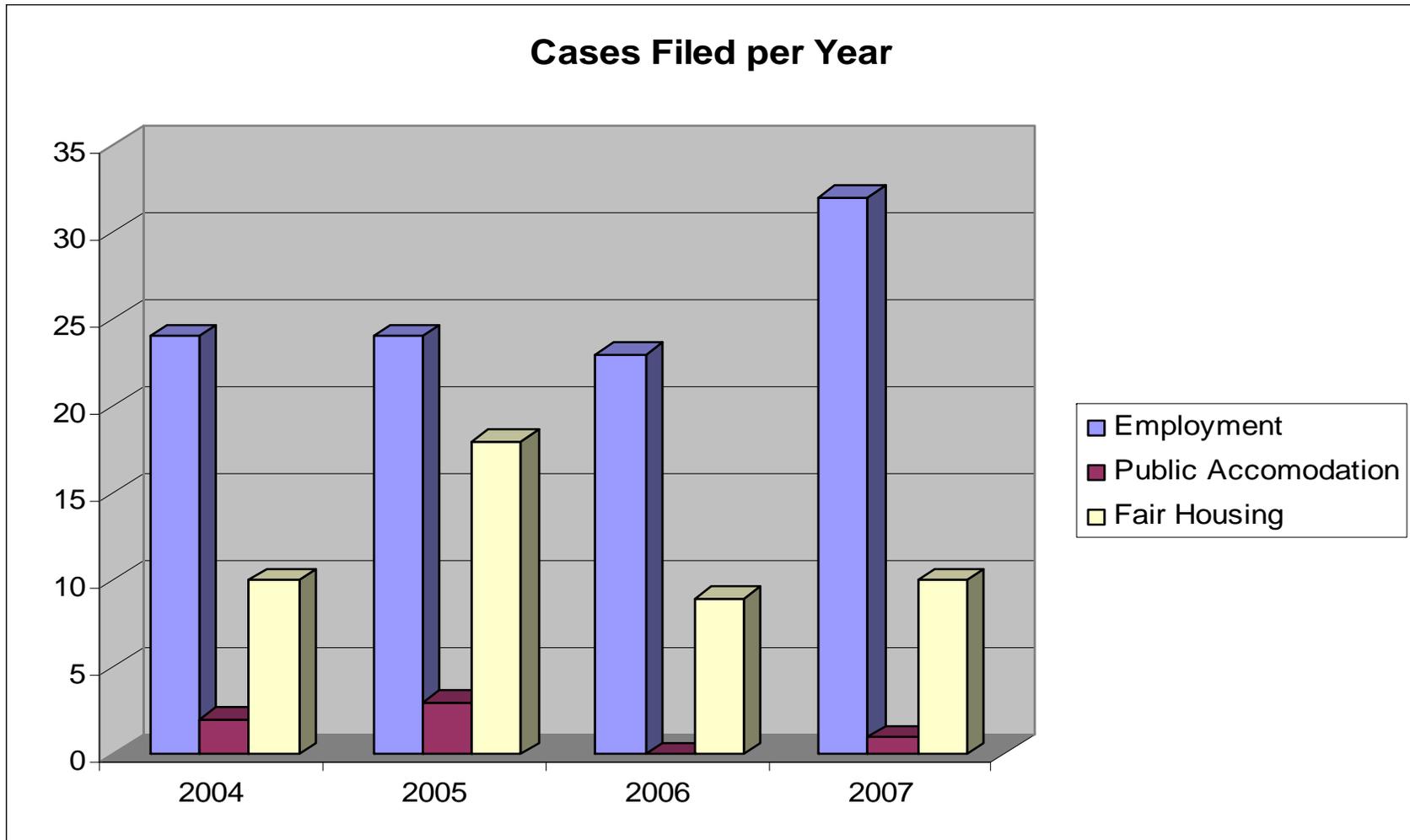
# City of Topeka HRC

## Case Activity 2007

	<b>Carried over from 2006</b>	<b>Docketed in 2007</b>	<b>Closed in 2007</b>	<b>Monetary Recovery</b>
<b>Employment</b>	6	31	25 <small>(12 carried into '08)</small>	\$20,904.63
<b>Fair Housing</b>	6	10	16 <small>(0 carried into '08)</small>	\$200.00
<b>Public Accommodation</b>	0	1	0 <small>(1 carried into '08)</small>	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	12	42	41 <small>(13 carried into '08)</small>	\$21,104.63

# City of Topeka HRC

## Case Activity 2004-2007 Comparisons



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# City of Topeka HRC

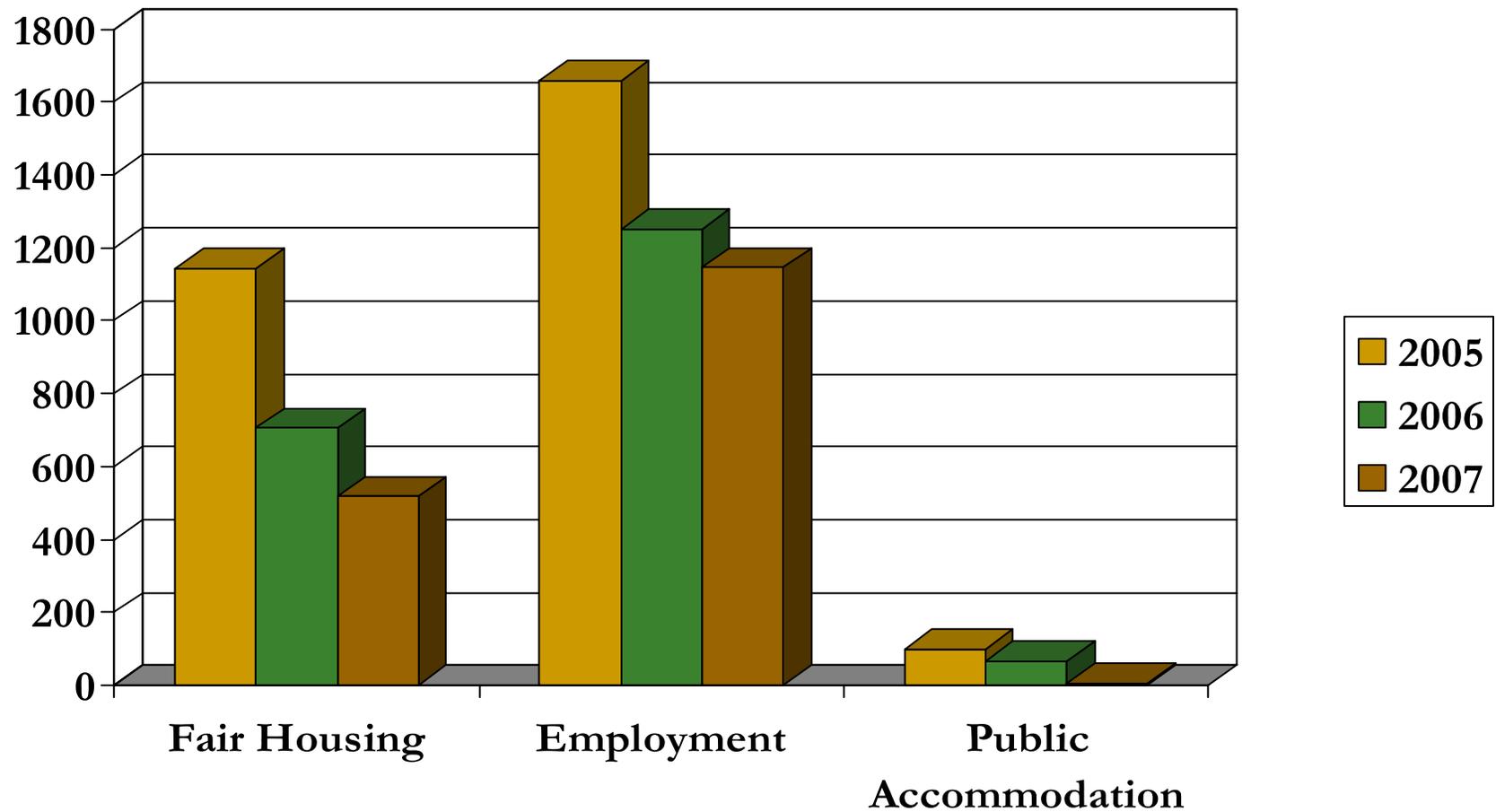
## Public Contacts

	Phone Calls	Walk Ins	Total
Employment	806	340	1146
Fair Housing	492	26	518
Public Accommodation	6	1	7
Totals	1304	367	1671

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# City of Topeka HRC

## Public Contacts 2005-2007 Comparisons



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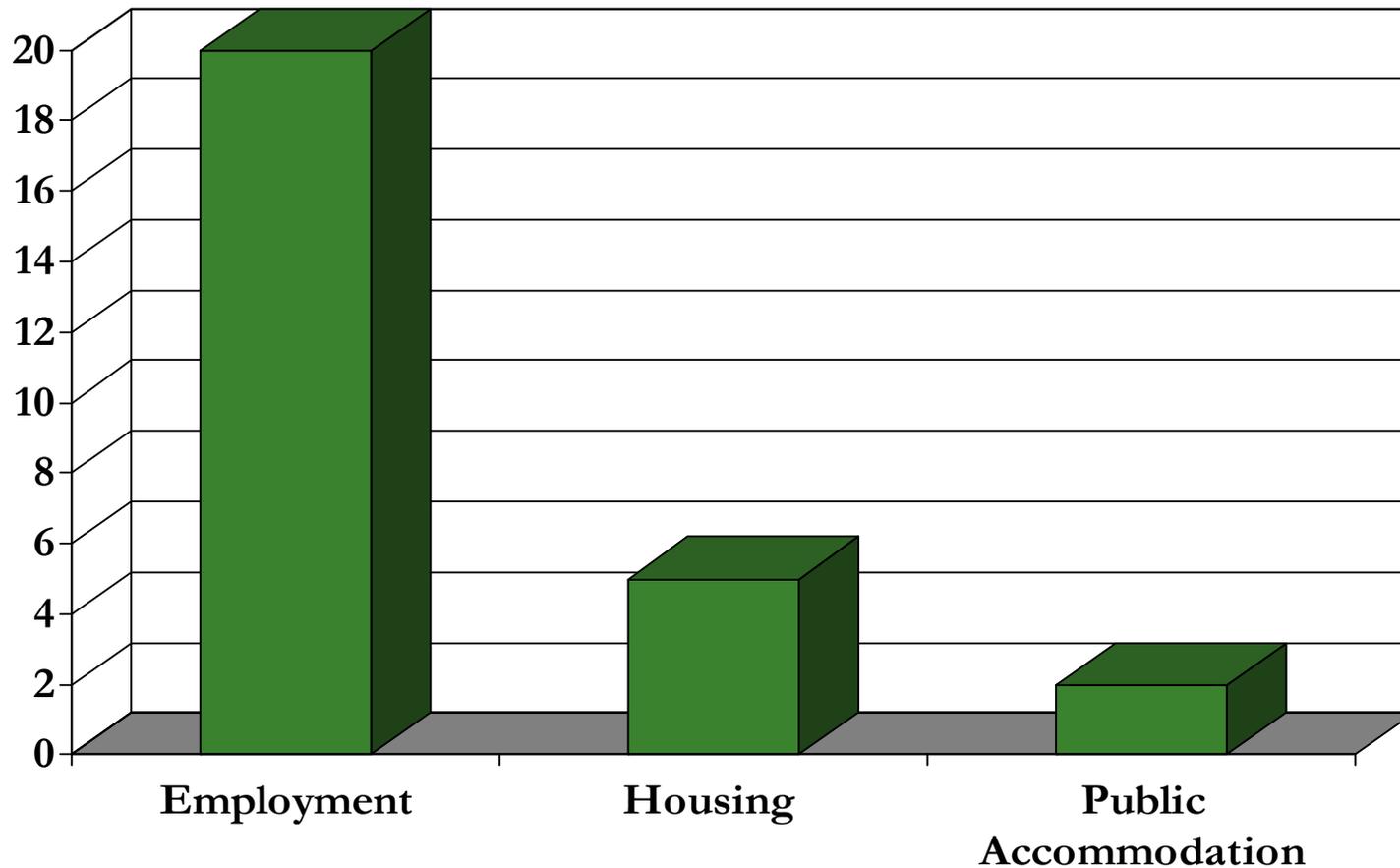
# City of Topeka HRC

## Outreach Activities

- **HRC Town Hall Meetings**
    - February: Facing Justice
    - May: COT Budget and Financing
    - October: Diversity & the Topeka Fire Department
    - December: Human Rights Day (postponed due to winter storm)
  - **Exploring Cultural Diversity Community Learning Series (February, with YWCA and RACE Committee)**
  - **Fair Housing Month Activity: FH Training for Code Enforcement Professionals (April)**
  - **Juneteenth Celebration (June)**
  - **Fiesta Mexicana (July)**
  - **Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off Block Party (September)**
  - **Unity Council's Celebration of Cultures Festival (October)**
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# City of Topeka HRC

2008 Year to Date (as of August 31, 2008)



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# City of Topeka HRC

## Goals for 2008

- **Continue with quarterly Town Hall meetings**
  - **Improved Commissioner Training**
  - **Increased focus on ADA issues and closer partnership with ADA Coordinator and the ADA Advisory Council**
  - **Increased participation with the YWCA's R.A.C.E. Committee to develop collaborative training and educational opportunities for City of Topeka employees and the community at large.**
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