

Albany Human Relations Commission (HRC)
Annual Report (January – December 2012)
Date: February 26, 2013

The Human Relations Commission was established in 2007 “to promote harmonious relations among citizens of Albany” through recommendations of “programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community.” (Ord. 5671 § 1, 2007; Ord. 5665 § 1, 2007).

A brief review of Commission activities during 2012 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

January 2012: Presented the first annual Albany Human Relations Award to Sharon Gisler at the City Council Meeting. The award was created to recognize individuals, organizations, or businesses in Albany that have worked to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany. Selection will be based on a demonstrated commitment to promoting human relations, diversity, and/or equality through community programs and activities. Gisler was recognized for her many years of community work, including Habitat for Humanity, Albany Peace Seekers, and the First Christian Church Community Meal.

March 2012: Members attended a “Continue the Dream” event in which Albany students in grades 3, 6-8, and high school and their teachers presented art and writing students had created to reflect the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

May 2012: Cosponsored Mental Health Awareness month poster and helped disseminate Spanish language posters advertising the HEART to heart Resource Fair in order to increase awareness of and attendance at the Fair. Fair organizers reported that there was increased attendance by members of the Latino community.

July 2012: Members attended the July 4 River Rhythms concert. The plan had been for members to participate in volunteer activities, but those attending were unable to connect with Parks & Recreation staff in charge of assigning duties.

August 2012: Members attended National Night Out neighborhood events to hear about neighborhood issues and share information about the Commission and its role.

September 2012: Participated in Festival Latino. HRC members served as Festival greeters, welcoming people as they arrived and urging them to participate in the Festival raffle.

October 2012: Distributed and publicized information and nomination forms for the first Annual Human Relations Award.

Met jointly with the Hispanic Advisory Council to discuss progress since the last meeting in July 2011, current work of each group, and issues or concerns for focus in the coming year. Members of both groups expressed great satisfaction with the meeting and the information shared.

Cosponsored a Mental Illness Awareness week event with the County Mental Health Services and Mental Health Advisory Board to provide information and answer questions from members of the community. The event took place adjacent to the weekly community meal at the First Christian Church. A Commission member also attended to represent the Commission. Those providing the information reported that the event had been successful in achieving its purpose.

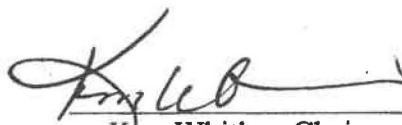

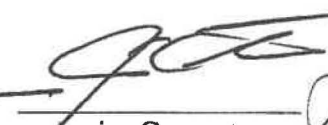
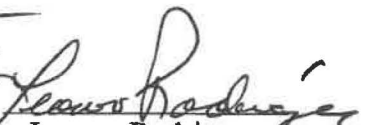
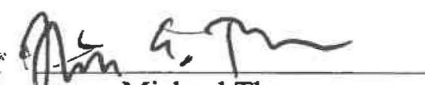
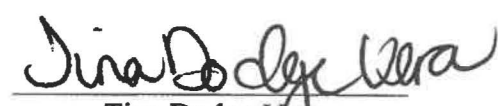
November 2012: Members participated in the Annual Summit on Homelessness.

The Commission approved the recipient of the second annual Human Relations Award, to be presented in January 2013.

December 2012: All seven HRC members participated in the City reception for volunteer commissions, enjoying City hospitality, as well as the opportunity to visit informally with each other.

Conclusion: Looking back, the Commission is grateful for the opportunities available to further its purpose. It is especially grateful for the support and assistance of City of Albany staff, including City Manager Wes Hare, City Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith, and Administrative Assistants Diana Eilers and Gina Burrese; and of its collaborative partners, including Linn County Mental Health, Linn Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee and Oregon State University. It is also grateful to City and County staff members who attended meetings to share information and answer questions, including Frank Moore and Katherine Henderson from the County Health Department; and to Executive Assistant Laura Hyde for her work on preparing the Commission history that is attached to this report. We look forward to continuing these and other positive activities in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

 Kim Whitley, Chair	 Nancy Greenman, Vice Chair	 Javier Cervantes	 Leonor Rodriguez
	 Michael Thomson		 Tina Dodge Vera

Human Relations Commission

Commission Established

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5665, March 28, 2007, creating Albany Municipal Code Chapter 2.25, establishing the Human Relations Commission (HRC).

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5671, May 9, 2007, amending AMC 2.25.020 [*commissioners must reside within the Albany city limits*] and 2.25.030 [*initial terms to be staggered according to the appointee's surname beginning with three-year terms for those closest to the beginning of the alphabet*].

Purpose: The Human Relations Commission was established by the Albany City Council to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany. It is created to recommend programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures, and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community.

First Commissioners

Name	Appointed By	Appointment Date	Term Expiration Date	Comments
Rafael Palacios	Mayor Doug Killin	07-25-2007	12-31-2007	Resigned 08-08-2007; he relocated to California; Blanca Ruckert appointed as replacement.
Blanca Ruckert	Mayor Doug Killin	08-08-2007	12-31-2007	none
Jodi Nelson	Councilor Dan Bedore	07-25-2007	12-31-2007	none
Rick Hammel, Jr.	Councilor Dick Olsen	07-25-2007	12-31-2008	none
Delia Guillen	Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr.	07-25-2007	12-31-2008	none
C. Jeffery Evans	Councilor Sharon Konopa	07-25-2007	12-31-2009	none
Marian Anderson	Councilor Jeff Christman	07-25-2007	12-31-2009	none
Anna Anderson	Councilor Bessie Johnson	08-08-2007	12-31-2009	none

First Meeting/First Officers

HRC's first meeting was Tuesday, September 25, 2007. At the second meeting [October 23, 2007], the first Chair and Vice Chair were elected. C. Jeffery Evans was elected Chair and Blanca Ruckert as Vice Chair.

Subsequent Commissioners

Resignations/Reappointments/New Appointments

- Blanca Ruckert was reappointed 01-07-2008 by Mayor Killin; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Jodi Nelson was reappointed 01-09-2008 by Councilor Bedore; new term expires 12-31-2010.
- Anna Anderson resigned 08-13-2008; Councilor Johnson appointed Kim Whitley on 08-27-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2009.
- Delia Guillen resigned 09-09-2008; Councilor Reid appointed John Hartman on 10-22-2008, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2008.
- Margaret Martinez was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Reid replacing John Hartman, whose term expired 12-31-2008. Margaret's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Nancy Greenman was appointed 01-14-2009 by Councilor Olsen replacing Rick Hammel, Jr., whose term expired 12-31-2008. Nancy's three-year term expires 12-31-2011.
- Blanca Ruckert resigned 04-22-2009; Mayor Konopa appointed Michael Thompson on 06-24-2009, as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2010.
- C. Jeffery Evans resigned 06-24-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Coburn appointed Linda Hart on 06-23-10, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Marian Anderson resigned 09-09-2009; vacant term expired 12-31-2009. Councilor Christman appointed Tina Dodge Vera on 02-10-2010, for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2012.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-13-2010 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2012.
- Jodi Nelson resigned 06-10-10; vacant term expires 12-31-2010. Councilor Collins appointed Julie Jones on 07-14-2010, for the term expiring 12-31-2010.
- Julie Jones was reappointed 01-12-2011 by Councilor Collins; new term expires 12-31-2013.
- Michael Thomson was reappointed 01-12-2011 by Mayor Konopa; new term expires 12-31-2013.
- Margaret Martinez completed her three-year term that expired 12-31-2011. Council Kopczynski appointed Leonor Rodriguez on 01-11-2012 for a new three-year expiring 12-31-2014.
- Nancy Greenman was reappointed 01-11-2012 by Councilor Olsen; new term expires 12-31-2014.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-09-2013 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2015.

Current HRC Roster (as of January 18, 2013)

Name	Appointment By	Term Expiration Date
Javier Cervantes	Councilor Floyd Collins	12-31-2013
Michael Thomson	Mayor Sharon Konopa	12-31-2013
Nancy Greenman	Councilor Dick Olsen	12-31-2014
Leonor Rodriguez	Councilor Ray Kopczynski	12-31-2014
Vacant	Councilor Bill Coburn	12-31-2015
Vacant	Councilor Rich Kellum	12-31-2015
Kim Whitley	Councilor Bessie Johnson	12-31-2015

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2009

Sharon Gisler
Michael Thomson
Mayor Sharon Konopa
Gerald Gisler
John Phillips
Margo Coleman
Alice Fitzpatrick
Donna Copeland
Bill Root
June Hemmingson
Larry Eby
Penny Miltenberger
Dan Miltenberger
Phillipa Meehan
Dick Owen
Rosa Plascencia
Tina Dodge Vera

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2010

Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Jim Bell, LBCC
Mary Zelinka, CARDV
Linda Hart
Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Catherine Henderson, Mental Health Advisory

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2011

Sue McGuire-Thompson, Community Services Consortium
Debbie Little, Community Services Consortium
Vawna Shepherd
Ora Mowdy
Shawn Smith
Westen Hoover
Ramos Pacheco
Andy Phillips
Jamie Lavery
Anna Benson, Linn-Benton Housing Authority
Jeanette Emerson, LBCC student
Chelsea Baker, LBCC student
Daniel Trinidad, LBCC student
Jodie Nelson, OSU

~~Students attending classes at Community Services Consortium~~

Visitors who have attended an HRC meeting in 2012

Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Clifford Hartman, Linn County Mental Health
Kathryn Henderson, Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board
Jim Clausen
Doug Finegan
Dick Knowles, Linn County Mental Health Advisory Board
Dede Burns-McLay, CARDV