



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY:

Stephanie Newton • Chris Equinoa • Ray Kopczynski • Scott Lawley
Jessi Brenneman • Daniel Ropp • Jo Rae Perkins



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Introduction

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) was established in 2007 by the Albany City Council to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany.

It was created to recommend programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures, and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community. The HRC recommendations are submitted to the City Council and City Manager.

In formulating its recommendations, the HRC strives for actions that lead to positive and respectful relations committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community. The duties of the Commission do not include the investigation or sanctioning of individual acts of unlawful or discriminatory behavior, but instead focus on recommending community activities that may be expected to promote positive change.

A history of commission membership and attendance is attached to this report, along with a calendar of 2018 HRC meetings and events that HRC members attended.





2019

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

01/23/19 — NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED

New commission members Jessi Brenneman and Jo Rae Perkins were appointed to the Human Relations Commission.

FEBRUARY

02/26/19 — GAPS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT LISA HARLAN

Lisa Harlan joined commissioners and discussed the challenges and successes faced in the Greater Albany Public School District. One of the school district's goals is to see that the school system demonstrates that each student is receiving what they need. The needs of one student could be very different from those of another student.

Another goal is for students, parents, and staff to realize that they are better together. Harlan envisions neighborhood schools where the school and neighboring homes coexist and support each other.

MARCH

03/26/19 — NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

New commission member Daniel Ropp was appointed to the Human Relations Commission.

03/26/19 — TOM JOHNSON OF PFLAG

Johnston passed out PFLAG brochures and gave the history of the national organization and the Corvallis/Albany chapter. He shared the events the organization takes part in and its mission of support, education, and advocacy so that those who identify themselves as LGBTQ+ can live with dignity and respect. Johnston noted that the area's chapter meets mainly in Corvallis but would like to start holding more meetings in Albany. He described the meetings as being a safe place.

Johnston shared about a LGBTQQIP youth group they host called Out-N-About, which wasn't very successful until some OSU grad students got involved. Johnston said that he knows these efforts are saving lives.

APRIL

04/12/19 — AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Commissioner Equinoa attended the African American Youth Leadership Conference and reported that the event was well attended. Youth were challenged to identify what was happening to their fellow students, what needed changing in their schools, and how to bring about that change. Equinoa was impressed with the youth who participated.

MAY

05/23/19 — HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD PRESENTATION AWARDS

Members of the commission presented the awards to the finalist in each category. Elizabeth Pakravan was presented with the Individual HRC Award and South Albany Community Church was presented with the Business/Oranization HRC Award.



Elizabeth Pakravan thanks her community after accepting the Human Relations Award from Commissioners Stephanie Newton and Alice Brockgreitens.

JUNE

06/22/19 — PRIDE MARCH

Members of the commission attended the Albany Pride March in support of LGBTQ+ members of the community.

06/25/19 — SUNRISE PARK UPDATE

Commissioner Equinoa, who is the Human Relations Commission representative on the Community Development Commission, reported that Sunrise Park's summer dedication will be delayed due to higher than anticipated project completion bids. After reallocating some community development funds and combing them with some funds from the Parks & Recreation Department, staff is hopeful that the project will be completed in the fall. The wetland approval for the project will expire in the fall, so it is important to complete it by then.



Commissioner Stephanie Newton attends the 2019 Albany Pride March with her daughter and husband.



Albany residents participating in the 2019 Albany Pride March

JULY

07/12/19 — LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

Members of the commission volunteered and attended the Lights for Liberty vigil to bring awareness and to protest the inhumane conditions refugees face in human detention camps.

AUGUST

08/06/19 — NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Each of the commissioners attended their neighborhoods National Night Out event and drove around to several other neighborhood events to check in with members of the community.

SEPTEMBER

09/11/19 — 9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Commissioners Jo Rae Perkins and Stephanie Newton attended the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held at the Linn County Courthouse.

09/15/19 — FESTIVAL LATINO

Commissioner Chris Equinoa volunteered at Festival Latino and Commissioners Brockgreitens and Newton attended and connected with the community. Despite the terrible weather, a few hundred people attended this event.



OCTOBER

10/22/19 — HRC <> HAC JOINT MEETING

Discussed respective missions and how the Human Relations Commission could better support the Hispanic Advisory Commission.

NOVEMBER

11/19/19 — FIRE CHIEF SHANE WOOTON

New Fire Chief Shane Wooton introduced himself to the group. Wanting to have a connection with this commission and the other city organizations, he is attending the different meetings and explaining the mission of his department and his desire to focus on its values of community service.

Chief Wooton invited the Human Relation Commission to let him know of any concerns they have. The group asked about outreach to the community, diversity of the department, budget shortfalls, and how they can support the department. Wooton expressed his desire to be a fire chief that is out in the community.

DECEMBER

12/17/19 — SETTING COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

The commission's desire is to have a greater positive impact on the community. They decided to focus on inviting community resource agencies to the coming year's HRC meetings.

Commissioner Stephanie Newton said she would reach out to some of the organizations including Jackson Street and Communities Helping Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively (CHANCE) to invite them to come present to the commission at an upcoming meeting so members of the commission can become more knowledgeable of the resources and services available to the community.



Conclusion

It is a pleasure to continue to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany through our recommendations and support for activities and actions that lead to positive and respectful interactions committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community.

We have met that goal to the best of our ability and feel our output is commendable, considering limited resources. The Commission members believe the commission is still needed and valued and there is still a lot of work to do. We thank the City Council for their support.

STEPHANIE NEWTON

CHRIS EQUINOA

RAY KOPCZYNSKI

SCOTT LAWLEY

JESSI BRENNEMAN

DANIEL ROPP

JO RAE PERKINS



HISTORY

— OF THE —

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].

Council adopted Ordinance No. 5866, January 13, 2016, amending AMC 2.25.030, Term of office and initial appointment, removing the following restriction: Members may not serve more than six consecutive years on the Commission. After serving six consecutive years, a member must leave the Commission for one year before being eligible for reappointment.

Purpose

The Human Relations Commission is established by the Albany City Council to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting 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.

Duties & Responsibilities

The Human Relations Commission shall meet periodically in public sessions at dates, times, and places as may be established by the Commission. The Commission shall have the duty to make recommendations to the City Council and the City Manager as outlined in AMC 2.25.010.

In formulating its recommendations, the Human Relations Commission shall strive for actions that lead to positive and respectful relations committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community. The duties of the Commission will not include the investigation or sanctioning of individual acts of unlawful or discriminatory behavior but will, instead, focus on recommending community activities that may be expected to promote positive change. The duties of the Human Relations Commission may be revised at any time, after public notice, by resolution.

First Commissioners

NAME	APPOINTED BY	TERM
Rafael Palacios*	Mayor Doug Killin	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2007
Blanca Ruckert	Mayor Doug Killin	08/08/2007 — 12/31/2007
Jodi Nelson	Councilor Dan Redore	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2007
Rick Hammel Jr.	Councilor Dick Olsen	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2008
Delia Guillen	Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr.	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2008
C. Jeffery Evans	Councilor Sharon Konopa	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009
Marian Anderson	Councilor Jeff Christman	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009
Anna Anderson	Councilor Bessie Johnson	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009

**Resigned 08/08/2007; Blanca Ruckert appointed as replacement*

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

BLANCA RUCKERT

Reappointed by Mayor Killin on 01/07/2008
Term expires 12/31/2010

DELIA GUILLEN

Resigned 09/09/2008

MARGARET MARTINEZ

Appointed by Councilor Reid on 01/14/2009
as replacement for John Hartman
Term expires 12/31/2011

BLANCA RUCKERT

Resigned 04/22/2009

C. JEFFERY EVANS

Resigned 06/24/2009

MARIAN ANDERSON

Resigned 09/09/2009

JODI NELSON

Reappointed by Councilor Bedore on 01/09/2008
Term expires 12/31/2010

JOHN HARTMAN

Appointed by Councilor Reid on 10/22/2008
as replacement for Delia Guillen
Term expires 12/31/2008

NANCY GREENMAN

Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/14/2009
as replacement for Rick Hammel, Jr.
Term expires 12/31/2011

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Appointed by Mayor Konopa on 06/24/2009
as replacement for Blanca Ruckert
Term expires 12/31/2010

LINDA HART

Appointed by Councilor Coburn on 06/23/2010
as replacement for C. Jeffery Evans
Term expires 12/31/2012

TINA DODGE VERA

Appointed by Councilor Christman on 02/10/2010
as replacement for Marian Anderson
Term expires 12/31/2012

Subsequent Commissioners

Continued



KIM WHITLEY

Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/13/2010

Term expires 12/31/2012

JODI NELSON

Resigned 06/10/2010

JULIE JONES

Appointed by Councilor Collins on 07/14/2010

as replacement for Jodi Nelson

Term expires 12/31/2010

JULIE JONES

Reappointed by Councilor Collins on 01/12/2011

Term expires 12/31/2013

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Reappointed by Mayor Konopa on 01/12/2011

Term expires 12/31/2013

MARGARET MARTINEZ

Term expired 12/31/2011

LEONOR RODRIGUEZ

Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 01/11/2012

as replacement for Margaret Martinez

Term expires 12/31/2014

NANCY GREENMAN

Reappointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/11/2012

Term expires 12/31/2014

JULIE JONES

Resigned 07/11/2012

JAVIER CERVANTES

Appointed by Councilor Collins on 08/22/2012

as replacement for Julie Jones

Term expires 12/31/2013

TINA DODGE VERA

Reappointed by Councilor Coburn on 02/13/2012

Term expires 12/31/2015

KIM WHITLEY

Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/09/2013

Term expires 12/31/2015

Subsequent Commissioners

Continued

LEONOR RODRIQUEZ

Resigned 09/10/2013

ROB DUNCAN

Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 09/25/2013

as replacement for Leonor Rodriquez

Term expires 12/31/2014

CHRIS EQUINOA

Appointed by Mayor Konopa on 01/08/2014

as replacement for Michael Thompson

Term expires 12/31/2016

DEBBIE BERG

Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 06/25/2014

as replacement for Rob Duncan

Term expires 12/31/2014

NANCY GREENMAN

Term expired 12/31/2014

JAY SLUITER

Appointed by Councilor Kellum on 12/13/2013

Term expires 12/31/2015

JAVIER CERVANTES

Reappointed by Councilor Collins on 01/08/2014

Term expires 12/31/2016

MICHAEL THOMPSON

Term Expired 12/31/2013

ROB DUNCAN

Resigned 06/11/2014

DEBBIE BERG

Reappointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 01/14/2015

Term expires 12/31/2017

DEBBIE BERG

Resigned 07/22/2015

Subsequent Commissioners

Continued

GRAHAM KISLINGBURY

Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/14/2015
as replacement for Nancy Greenman
Term expires 12/31/2017

DENISE HUGHES - TAFEN

Appointed by Councilor Kopczyznski on 07/22/2015
as replacement for Debbie Berg
Term expires 12/31/2017

KIM WHITLEY

Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 02/24/2016
Term expires 12/31/2018

ALICE BROCKGREITENS

Appointed by Councilor Sykes on 01/24/2017
Term expires 12/31/2019

GRAHAM KISLINGBURY

Term expired 12/31/2017

TINA DODGE VERA

Reappointed by Councilor Coburn on 02/24/2016
Term expires 12/31/2018

JAY SLUITER

Term expired 12/31/2015

CHRIS EQUINOA

Reappointed by Mayor Konopa on 01/11/2017
Term expires 12/31/2019

JAVIER CERVANTES

Appointed by Councilor Kellum on 01/24/2017
as replacement for Jay Sluiter
Term expires 12/31/2018

STEPHANIE NEWTON

Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/23/2018
as replacement for Graham Kislingbury
Term expires 12/31/2020

Subsequent Commissioners

Continued

DENISE HUGHES-TAFEN

Resigned 09/12/2018

JAVIER CERVANTES

Resigned 12/31/2018

KIM WHITLEY

Term expired 12/31/2018

JO RAE PERKINS

Appointed by Councilor Coburn on 01/23/2019
as replacement for Tina Dodge Vera

Term expires 12/31/2021

ALICE BROCKGREITENS

Term expired 12/31/2019

SCOTT LAWLEY

Appointed by Councilor Kopyczynski on 09/12/2018
as replacement for Denise Hughes-Tafen

Term expires 12/31/2020

TINA DODGE VERA

Term expired 12/31/2018

JESSI BRENNEMAN

Appointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/23/2019
as replacement for Kim Whitley

Term expires 12/31/2021

DANIEL ROPP

Appointed by Councilor Kellum on 02/13/2019
as replacement for Javier Cervantes

Term expires 12/31/2021

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION BOARD ROSTER

— Last updated February 2020 —



STEPHANIE NEWTON
COMMISSION CHAIR

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2020



CHRIS EQUINOA
COMMISSION VICE CHAIR
TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2022



SCOTT LAWLEY

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2020

JESSI BRENNEMAN

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021



DANIEL ROPP

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021

JO RAE PERKINS

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021



ALICE BROCKGREITENS

TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2019

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

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

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*)

2011

Sue McGuire Thompson (*Community Services Consortium*) • Debbie Little (*Community Services Consortium*) • Vawna Shepherd • Ora Mowdy • Shawn Smith • Westin 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*)

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*)

2013

Jennifer Sanders (*Chief Operations Officer for Linn-Benton Housing Authority*) • Albany Mayor Sharon Konopa • Greg Roe (*United Way of Linn County Executive Director*) • Katie Nooshazar (*Recreation Programs Manager, City of Albany Parks & Recreation*) • Debbi Richards (*Recreation Programs Supervisor, City of Albany Parks & Recreation*) • Rose Lacey (*Recreation Programs Specialist, City of Albany Parks & Recreation*) • Anne Catlin (*Planner III, City of Albany Community Development*) • Frank Moore (*Linn County Mental Health*)

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

2013 (CONTINUED)

Clifford Hartman (Linn County Mental Health) • Tony Howell (Linn County Alcohol & Drug Program) • Cristie Lynch (Samaritan Health Marketing & Communications Manager) • Tara Dixson (GAPS) • Unnamed (McKinney-Vento Liaison) • Monica Lorence (Linn County Outreach Coordinator of Jackson Street Youth Shelter) • Andrea Myhre (Grant Officer with the Jackson Street Youth Shelter)

2014

Tony Howell (*Linn County Mental Health*) • Tonja Everest (*Greater Albany Public Schools*) • Lisa Shogren (*Greater Albany Public Schools*) • Dan Stone (*LBCC Theatre*) • Sandy Roberts (*Community Education Specialist, City of Albany Police Department*) • Todd Noble (*Program, Manager, Linn County Mental Health*) • Denise Hughes-Tafen (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Franz Schneider (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Sue Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Casey Dorland (*Lieutenant, City of Albany Police Department*) • Zoe Kellett (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Ed Hodney (*Director, City of Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Danette Killinger (*Prevention Coordinator, Linn County Alcohol & Drug*) • Kathryn Henderson (*Prevention Specialist, Linn County Alcohol & Drug*) • Peter Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Jasper Smith (*MLK Commission Chair & Program Manager for Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program*)

2015

Peter Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Jasper Smith (*MLK Commission Chair & Program Manager for Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program*) • Sue Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Catherine Miller (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Carmen Moody (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Rich Kellum (*Albany City Councilor*) • Tony Howell (*Linn County Mental Health*) • Todd Noble (*Program, Manager, Linn County Mental Health*) • Jeff Blackford (*CHANCE Executive Director*) • Leonor Rodriguez (*Hispanic Advisory Committee*) • Captain Eric Carter (*Albany Police Department*) • Dr. Don Nelson (*Psychologist, Linn County Sheriff's Office/Linn County Mental Health*) • Captain Todd Vian (*Linn County Sheriff's Office*) • Kalin Salinas (*Albany resident*)

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

2016

Ray Kopczynski (*Albany City Councilor*) • Frank Moore (*Linn County Health Administrator/Mental Health Director*) • John Bradner (*Albany Fire Chief*) • Alfredo Mendez (*Deputy Fire Marshal, Albany Fire Department*) • Debbi Richards (*Recreation Program Supervisor, Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Anj Brown (*Resource Development Coordinator, Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Ed Hodney (*Albany Parks & Recreation Director*) • Katie Nooshazar (*Recreation Programs Manager, Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Lynne Smith (*Event & Program Coordinator, Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Rose Lacey (*Recreation Coordinator, Albany Parks & Recreation Department*) • Iris Carrasco • Farhad Nooshazar • Todd Noble (*Linn County Mental Health Program Manager*) • Kathryn Henderson (*Linn Mental Health Advisory Committee Board Member*) • Brad Conners (*Crime Prevention Specialist, Albany Police Department*) • Dave Toler (*Director of Senior & Disability Services, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments*)

2017

Iris Carrasco • Sue Goodman • Nancy Greenman • Peter Goodman • David Mote • Keith Kolkow • LBCC Students • Shasta Prunk • Sharon Gisler • Jerred Taylor • Ed Hemmington Human Relations Commission (VISITORS) • Todd Noble, Linn County Health Administrator/Mental Health Director • Others who did not provide their names

2018

Alex Johnson II • Elizabeth Jineded • Patty Louisiana (*Veterans Commemoration Association President*) • Kristina Hauge • Ron Green • Jill VanBuren • Emma Eaton • Ilynn Winn • Sarah Brock • Reverend Amber Churchill • Rafael Palacios (*Business Advisor*) • Jarumy Lindquist

2019

Shane Wooton (*Chief, Albany Fire Department*) • Stephanie Nappa (*Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments*) • Millie Barriger (*Hispanic Advisory Commission*) • June Hemmingson (*C.A.R.E.*) • Dan Lincoln • Vonnie Lincoln • Katarina Yee • Quinn Weisensee • Ray Kopczynski • Tom Johnston (*PFLAG*) • Jan Buckler • Barbara Johnston • Alex Johnson II (*City Councilor*) • Lisa Harlan (*GAPS Assistant Superintendent*) • Tammy Skabina • Jaya Conser Lapham • Valentina Soares • Maria Torres-Andrade • Juan Guzman • Nancy Greenman • Alfredo Mendez, Joyce Thompson Graham • Tania Mendez