



# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## Prepared & presented by:

- Stephanie Newton
- Chris Equinoa
- Tina Dodge Vera
- Alice Brockgreitens
- Javier Cervantes
- Kim Whitley
- Denise Hughes-Tafen



# Human Relations Commission

## 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 2017 HRC meetings and events that HRC members attended.



# Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY

- Hosted a showing and discussion of the movie *Selma* on Saturday, January 14th.
- An Albany resident asked about the HRC's mission statement and requested clarification of what "*harmonious relationships*" meant.

## FEBURARY

- Alice Brockgreitens joined the Human Relations Commission.
- Members attended Coffee With a Cop, hosted by the Albany Police Department

## MARCH

- Voted for recipients of the 2016 Albany Human Relations Award.

## APRIL

- The Commission held a joint meeting with the Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) of Linn and Benton Counties.
- Discussed rewording the HRC mission statement.



# Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

## MAY

- Presented 2016 Albany Human Relations Award to Dania J. Samudio, Keith Kolkow, and Ochoa's Queseria Mexican-style cheese factory.
- Members attended OneVibe Diversity Day, Liberty Tree Day, Coffee With A Cop, and the HEART to Heart Resource Fair

## JUNE

- Issued proclamation for LGBT Pride Week.

## JULY

- Proposed wording revisions to AMC 2.25, Albany Human Relations Commission

## AUGUST

- The Human Relations Commission and the City Council held a joint work session to discuss the ordinance brought forward by the Human Relations Commission at the June 28 and July 12, 2017 City Council meetings.



# Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

## SEPTEMBER

- Informed of upcoming plans to change the mascot of South Albany High School from Greater Albany Public School Superintendent Jim Golden and South Albany High School Principal Brent Belveal.

## OCTOBER

- Special joint work session with Albany City Council
- Work session with the Hispanic Advisory Council

## NOVEMBER

- Members attended Coffee with a Cop and the Annual Summit on Homelessness

## DECEMBER

- Members attended the Homeless Memorial Service



# Human Relations Commission

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.

Javier Cervantes

Stephanie Newton

Tina Dodge Vera

Kim Whitley

Chris Equinoa

Denise Hughes-Tafen

Alice Brockgreitens



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

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## 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.



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

- **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 and 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



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

## 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.



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

## SUBSEQUENT COMMISSIONERS

- 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.



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

## SUBSEQUENT COMMISSIONERS

- 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, as her replacement 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 threeyear expiring 12-31-2014.
- Nancy Greenman was reappointed 01-11-2012 by Councilor Olsen; new term expires 12-31-2014.
- Julies Jones resigned 7-11-2012; vacant term expires 12-31-2013. Councilor Collins appointed Javier Cervantes on 8-22-2012 as his replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2013.
- Kim Whitley was reappointed 01-09-2013 by Councilor Johnson; new term expires 12-31-2015.
- Tina Dodge Vera was reappointed 02-13-13 by Councilor Coburn; new term expires 12-31-2015.
- Jay Sluiter was appointed 02-13-13 by Councilor Kellum; new term expires 12-31-2015



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

## SUBSEQUENT COMMISSIONERS

- Leonor Rodriquez resigned 09-10-13; vacant term expires 12-31-2014. Councilor Kopczynski appointed Rob Duncan on 09-25-2013 as her replacement.
- Javier Cervantes was reappointed 1-08-2014 by Councilor Collins; new term expires 12-31-2016.
- Chris Equinoa was appointed 1-08-2014 by Mayor Konopa replacing Michael Thomson, whose term expired 12-31-2013. Chris' three-year term expires 12-31-2016.
- Rob Duncan resigned 6-11-2014; vacant term expires 12-31-2014. Councilor Kopczynski appointed Debbie Berg 6-25-2014 as his replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2014.
- Debbie Berg was reappointed 1-14-2015 by Councilor Kopczynski; Debbie's three-year expires 12-31-2017.
- Graham Kislingbury was appointed 1-14-2015 by Councilor Olsen replacing Nancy Greenman, whose term expired 12-31-2014; Graham's three-year term expires 12-31-2017.
- Denise Hughes-Tafen was appointed 7-22-2015 by Councilor Kopczynski replacing Debbie Berg, who resigned; term expires 12-31-2017.
- Tina Dodge Vera was reappointed 2-24-2016 by Councilor Coburn; Tina's three-year term expires 12-31-2018.



# Human Relations Commission

HISTORY

## SUBSEQUENT COMMISSIONERS

- Kim Whitley was reappointed 2-24-2016 by Councilor Johnson; Kim's three-year term expires 12-31-2018.
- Jay Sluiter's term expired 12-31-2015; he did not want to be considered for reappointment. This vacant position is Councilor Kellum's to fill; the three-year term expires 12-31-2018.
- Chris Equinoa was reappointed 1-11-2017 by Mayor Konopa; Chris's three-year term expires 12-31-2019.
- Alice Brockgreitens was appointed 1-24-2017 by Councilor Sykes; Alice's three-year term expires 12-31-2019.
- Javier Cervantes was appointed 1-24-2017 by Councilor Kellum to fill the vacant position from 12-31-2015; Javier's term expires 12-31-2018.
- Stephanie Newton was appointed 1-23-2018 by Councilor Olsen, replacing Kislingbury, who resigned; term expires 12-31-2020.



# Human Relations Commission

ROSTER

## Denise Hughes-Tafen

Appointed By: Councilor Kopczynski  
Term Expires: 12/31/20

## Javier Cervantes

Appointed By: Councilor Kellum  
Term Expires: 12/31/18

## Tina Dodge Vera

Appointed By: Councilor Coburn  
Term Expires: 12/31/18

## Kim Whitley

Appointed By: Councilor Johnson  
Term Expires: 12/31/18

## Chris Equinoa

Appointed By: Mayor Konopa  
Term Expires: 12/31/19

## Alice Brockgreitens

Appointed By: Councilor Sykes  
Term Expires: 12/31/19

## Stephanie Newton

Appointed By: Councilor Olsen  
Term Expires: 12/31/20



# 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



# Human Relations Commission

VISITORS

## 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

## 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



# Human Relations Commission

VISITORS

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



# Human Relations Commission

VISITORS

## 2014

- Tony Howell, Linn County Mental Health
- Tonja Everest, Greater Albany Public Schools
- Lisa Shogren, Greater Albany Public Schools
- Dan Stone, LBCC Theatre Director
- Sandy Roberts, Community Education Specialist, City of Albany Police Department
- Casey Dorland, Lieutenant, City of Albany Police Department
- 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
- Todd Noble, Program, Manager, Linn County Mental Health
- Denise Hughes-Tafen, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE)
- Franz Schneider, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE)
- Sue Goodman, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE)
- Zoe Kellett, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE)
- Peter Goodman, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE)
- Jasper Smith, MLK Commission Chair & Program Manager for Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program



# Human Relations Commission

VISITORS

## 2015

- Peter Goodman, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (C.A.R.E.)
- Sue Goodman, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (C.A.R.E.)
- Catherine Miller, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (C.A.R.E.)
- Carmen Moody, representing Community Action for Racial Equality (C.A.R.E.)
- Rich Kellum, City Councilor
- Tony Howell, Linn County Alcohol & Drug Program Manager
- Todd Noble, Linn County Mental Health Program Manager
- 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



# 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



# Human Relations Commission

VISITORS

## 2017

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