

**Albany Human Relations Commission  
Annual Report (January – December 2014)**

The Human Relations Commission was established in 2007 “to promote harmonious relations among the 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 2014 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

**January 2014**

- Chris Equinoa joined the Commission, replacing Michael Thomson.
- Members hosted and participated in reading Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech at City Hall on January 15, 2014.
- Members Nancy Greenman, Kim Whitley, and former member Michael Thomson presented the Human Relations Awards at the January 22, 2014, City Council meeting. Annette Hobbs and Christmas Storybook Land received the awards.
- Tonja Everest and Lisa Shogren from Greater Albany Public Schools spoke to the Commission about prekindergarten outreach and readiness.
- Tony Howell with Linn County Mental Health told the Commission that the county would be focusing on children during Mental Health Month in May 2014. The Commission discussed recognizing local youth who are helping their peers.

**No meetings in February or March – lack of quorum**

**April 2014**

- Danette Killinger, Linn County Health Services Prevention Officer, spoke to the Commission about activities planned for Mental Health Month.
- Dan Stone, theater director at LBCC, told the Commission about Sanctuary Stage, a community art project that, this spring, involved local veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq and their families.

**May 2014**

- Mayor Konopa signed and read a Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation on May 14, 2014. A news story about the observance also appeared in the May 2014 issue of *City Bridges*.
- Member Equinoa was appointed to the City Community Development Commission, replacing member Cervantes.

**June 2014**

- Sandy Roberts, Community Education Specialist with Albany Police Department, spoke to the Commission about National Night Out and police efforts to communicate effectively and positively with Albany residents whose native language is Spanish.
- The Commission’s annual report was received by the Albany City Council on June 11.

**July 2014**

- Debbie Berg joined the Commission, replacing Rob Duncan, who resigned.
- Ed Hodney, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented information about plans for redesigning and renovating Sunrise Park. Members attended a community meeting there; residents of the neighborhood have been encouraged to be part of the planning.
- Albany Police Lt. Casey Dorland gave a presentation on community policing, data-driven policing, community education efforts and the duties of staff in the Community Resource Unit.
- Members volunteered at River Rhythms concerts on July 24 and July 31.

#### **August 2014**

- The monthly meeting was devoted to planning for activities coming up in the fall.

#### **September 2014**

- The Commission cosponsored and participated in the Rural Organizing Project's presentation, "Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon?," at Albany Public Library on September 7, lead by Walidah Imarisha, a professor at Portland State and Oregon State Universities.
- Members participated in Festival Latino on September 21.
- Member Cervantes participated in Welcome Day at LBCC on September 25 and reported to the Commission about the achievements and concerns of Hispanic students on campus there.
- Todd Noble, Kathryn Henderson, and Danette Killinger spoke to the Commission about Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 5-11. They viewed a video for physicians and health care providers that was intended to increase awareness of mental illness and get people talking and thinking about its prevalence.

#### **October 2014**

- The Commission held its annual joint meeting with the Hispanic Advisory Committee of Linn and Benton Counties. The groups discussed how City services and programs are accessed by the Latino community and suggested how that access might be improved. Discussion focused on transit and language services and addressed how City staff accommodates residents or clients who do not speak or read English well.

#### **November 2014**

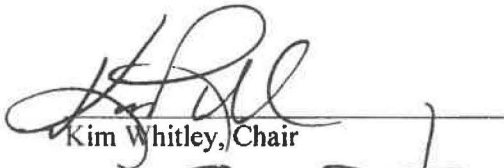
- Representatives of Community Action for Racial Equality (CARE) and Corvallis Raging Grannies asked the Commission to support a resolution denouncing hate speech after racist literature was found on vehicles in downtown Albany after the Veterans' Day parade.
- Jasper Smith, head of the Martin Luther King Commission for the City of Corvallis, met with the Commission regarding MLK Day events in Corvallis and offered collaboration with the HRC on future events. The Commission made plans to host a public reading of Dr. King's "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech at City Hall on January 15, 2015.
- City Manager Wes Hare and Information Technology Director Jorge Salinas presented a draft Limited English Proficiency Plan for the Commission's review.

#### **December 2014**

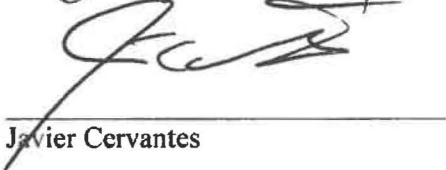
- The Commission requested and the City Council adopted the CARE resolution at the December 3, 2014, City Council meeting.

**Conclusion:** As members of the Human Relations Commission, it is a pleasure to continue to promote harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany through our recommendations and support for activities that serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions 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 your support.


Respectfully submitted,



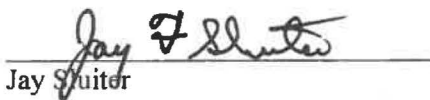
Kim Whitley, Chair



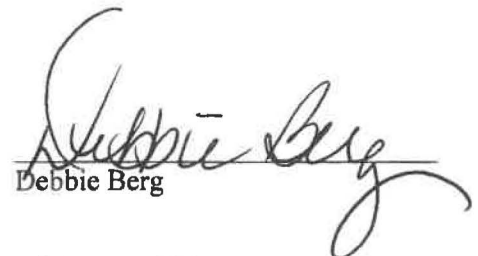
Javier Cervantes



Chris Equinoa



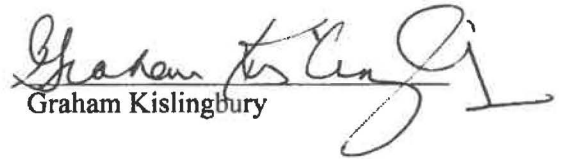
Jay Shuter



Debbie Berg



Tina Dodge Vera



Graham Kislingbury

## 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 Thomson 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, 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 three-year expiring 12-31-2014.
- Nancy Greenman was reappointed 01-11-2012 by Councilor Olsen; new term expires 12-31-2014.
- Julie 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.
- Leonor Rodriguez resigned 09-10-13; vacant term expires 12-31-2014. Councilor Kopczynski appointed Rob Duncan on 09-25-2013 as her replacement for the term expiring 12-31-2014.
- 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.

**Current HRC Roster (as of February 20, 2015)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointment By</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
Tina Dodge Vera	Councilor Bill Coburn	12-31-2015
Jay Sluiter	Councilor Rich Kellum	12-31-2015
Kim Whitley	Councilor Bessie Johnson	12-31-2015
Javier Cervantes	Councilor Floyd Collins	12-31-2016
Chris Equinoa	Mayor Sharon Konopa	12-31-2016
Debbie Berg	Councilor Ray Kopczynski	12-31-2017
Graham Kislingbury	Councilor Dick Olsen	12-31-2017

**Visitors who 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 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 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 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

### **Visitors who attended an HRC meeting in 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

### **Visitors who attended an HRC meeting in 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