



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared & presented by:

- Keith Kolkow, Chair



Human Relations Commission

The Albany Human Relations Commission was established to foster a city that is stable, safe, and just. The commission is established by the Albany City Council with the purpose of strengthening and celebrating every resident of Albany. It is committed to the philosophy of acceptance, inclusion, equal opportunity accessibility, dignity, and fair treatment for all.

Throughout the majority of 2022, our commission dedicated time to planning community outreach and participating in local events. Commissioners set up tables at the Farmer's Market on multiple occasions and attended or volunteered at numerous local events.

Our monthly meetings hosted leaders from local nonprofit organizations, school administrators, directors in higher education, county health employees, and our Chief of Police.

As the chair of the Human Relations Commission, I have two recommendations for the council to consider:

1. The council and the commission should initiate a collaborative effort to determine an appropriate name that better reflects our role in the community.
2. During the drafting of the next budget, a small allocation should be made to support the work of the commission. The commission has received multiple requests to support local events that align with our mission, which we are unable to support through donations or sponsorships

With consideration of the aforementioned items, the commission will be able to fulfill our mission and make a more significant contribution to the city's strategic plan. It is a great honor to serve the community alongside our fellow commissioners.

Additionally, the commission would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Staff Liaison, Kim Lyddane, Recorder Gina Burrese, and the other staff members who have provided assistance or covered for them in their absence. Their exceptional work in supporting the commission is highly valued and acknowledged.



Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

- Jamie Jones joined the Human Relation Commission
- Stephanie Newton elected as Chair, Miriam Cummins elected as Vice-Chair

FEBURARY

- Chief Marcia Harnden and Crime Analyst Pat Hurley presented Statistical transparency of policing report

MARCH

- Sonja Neperud joined the Human Relations Commission
- Chair Stephanie Newton presented the Annual Report to council

APRIL

- Gayle Woodworth, Linn County Harm Reduction Coordinator presented about LCPH efforts



Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

MAY

- Wendy Sutton spoke about the upcoming Linn Benton NAACP Juneteeth Event at LBCC
- Communications Director Teri Conklin presented about Ophelia's Place's mission and new location in Albany

JUNE

- Executive Director Jason Dorsette spoke about the Office of Institutional Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Office at LBCC

JULY

- Commission decides to award two individuals and two nonprofits for the combined years of 2021 and 2022 (HRC Award)

AUGUST

- Business from the public, Kimya Massey, Deputy Athletic Director/Chief Operating Officer for Oregon State University addresses commission on OSU's difficulty hiring and retaining floks from out of the Willamette Valley
- GAPS Superintendent Andy Gardner introduces himself as the new superintendent



Human Relations Commission

HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

- Commissioner Jones proposes "Coffee with. Commissioner" as an outreach project for the commission

OCTOBER

- Commission decides to extend HRC award process

NOVEMBER

- It is decided HRC wants to wll with the Hispanic Advisory Commission revive Festival Latino, a joint meeting is scheduled for December

DECEMBER

- Members met with Hispanic Advisory Commision about reviving Festival Latino