



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

### HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall, Willamette Room

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

7:00 p.m.

### AGENDA

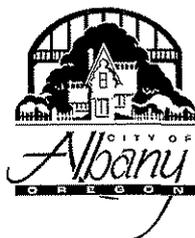
1. CALL TO ORDER
2. WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS
  - Linda Hart
  - Julie Jones
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - July 27, 2010. [Pages 1-2]  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_
5. SCHEDULED BUSINESS
  - a. Business from the Public
  - b. Updates
    - 1) 2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day. [Verbal & Page 3] (Greenman)  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) HRC annual report. [Verbal & Pages 4-8] (Whitley)  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3) Hispanic Advisory Council. [Verbal] (Dodge Vera)  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_
5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION
6. NEXT MEETING DATE: *Tuesday, September 28, 2010*
7. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: [www.cityofalbany.net](http://www.cityofalbany.net)

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*The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the Human Resources Department in advance by calling (541) 917-7500.*

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APPROVED:

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

City Hall Willamette Room

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Commissioners present: Margaret Martinez, Kim Whitley, Tina Dodge Vera, Michael Thomson, Nancy Greenman

Commissioners absent: Linda Hart [excused], Julie Jones [excused]

Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Management Assistant/Public Information Officer

Others present: none

WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

This will be done at the next meeting due to both new members being absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 22, 2010

MOTION: Nancy Greenman asked for the word "involved" to be changed to "victims" on page two, paragraph three, sentence four. Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction; Margaret Martinez seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

2010 National Night Out/Everybody's Neighborhood Day, Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Whitley said that she would like all of the Commissioners to be in attendance at this event. All of the Commissioners agreed that they will be attending. Marilyn Smith said that the Commissioners should be there around 5:00 p.m. to help with setup and that the event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Smith said that the door hangers were delivered today around the neighborhood. Smith said that they can use tickets for the drawing to give away the t-shirts. She said that there are also some LED lights to give away. Greenman said that she has picked up the condiments. Martinez said that Safeway has given us \$20. Whitley said that she will go to Safeway to get the Otter Pops. Tina Dodge Vera said that she received \$25 from Albertsons and drinks from MegaFoods and PepsiCo. Whitley said that she will check with Jim Bell to see if he will be supplying coolers and ice for the ice cream bars. Whitley said that Samaritan Services is donating hot dog buns, plates, cups, etc. Greenman said that she prepared a thank-you letter for the businesses which have donated to the National Night Out event [see agenda file]. Smith said that there is a City of Albany banner that is available for our use.

HRC Annual Report

Greenman passed out copies of the draft report [see agenda file]. She said that the report we are looking at has a few changes to it after Smith reviewed it. The HRC members reviewed and discussed the draft report. Greenman said that it would be nice for all of the members to sign the final report. It was agreed that all members, including the two newly appointed members, would sign the final report. Greenman said that she will finalize the report and bring it to the National Night Out event for all of the members to sign. Smith said that the report could go to either the August 11 or August 25 City Council meeting. Whitley said that she wouldn't be available on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but the 25<sup>th</sup> would work perfectly. Greenman asked if the new HRC members know about the National Night Out event. Smith said that she would e-mail them about the event.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

Whitley asked that "Hispanic Advisory Council" be a standing agenda item on the HRC agenda. Dodge Vera said that there is some transition happening within the Council. She said that there is a new Benton County and Linn County cochair. She said that they discussed disproportionate discipline regarding children of color. She said that if a child is suspended from school they are also suspended from the Boys and Girls Club. She said that the Council met with law enforcement agencies to learn about the systems and what the differences are between counties. She said that the Council shares this information with the Hispanic community so that people understand their rights.

Dodge Vera said that there is a Soccer Tournament at Willamette Park on August 12 and 13. Festival Latinos is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, at Monteith Riverpark. Dodge Vera said that there are more services available in Corvallis for Hispanics, but more live in Linn County. Hare asked if Dodge Vera had a sense of what would be helpful to make the community more welcoming. Greenman said that it is important for people to feel able to draw on law enforcement and other protections. Greenman said that thinking of ways to get good information about protections that exist in Albany would be helpful. Dodge Vera said that, according to the Linn County District Attorney's Office, if a woman is undocumented and she is a victim of abuse it is unclear if she will be deported or not based on her history. Whitley said that the one thing we can do as a commission is call on each other if we have a situation that we need help with. Martinez said that people of other cultures have a different perspective on law enforcement based on what they have seen. Dodge Vera said that the Hispanic Advisory Council hopes to meet with Parks & Recreation next month.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Willamette Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Eilers  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare  
City Manager

Dear Human Relations Commission,

On behalf of the Police Department, thank you for your time, effort and commitment in helping make this year's National Night Out a resounding success.

From all reports, the sponsored event in Eleanor Park was greatly appreciated and well-attended by neighborhood residents. I believe our combined missions were accomplished on event night, and the citizens of Albany benefited from your dedication to promote community livability and well-being.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Hercules



**Albany Human Relations Commission  
Annual Report (January 2009 – December 2009)**

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 2009 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

**January:** To honor the birthday of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the Commission and Linn-Benton Community College hosted a **panel discussion on diversity and cross-cultural understanding** at LBCC. Approximately two dozen attendees heard three panelists from various backgrounds from Linn-Benton towns speak on their life philosophies and experiences as a people of color living and working in our area.

**February:** To promote mental health awareness and wellness in Albany, Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS) Superintendent’s office identified 20-30 key GAPS professionals to attend a **three-hour session on working with youth around mental health wellness** with the director of the National Mental Health Wellness Campaign, Ross Szabo. Speaker funding was secured by a HRC member and provided by Oregon State University.

**Note:** An article in the winter issue of *City Bridges* discussed Mr. Szabo’s upcoming presentations at OSU.

**May:** Partnered with Linn County Mental Health as a poster sponsor for Mental Health Month.

**Summer:** Used the summer issue of the *City Bridges* broad circulation to publish an article on the positive ways in which to **care for the mental health wellness of children** in recognition of Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day.

**July:** Following the death of former Mayor Gene Belhumeur, Mayor Konopa discussed the history of Everybody’s Neighborhood Day and invited the Commission to prepare a proclamation honoring August 26 as Everybody’s Neighborhood Day. The Commission drafted a proclamation, which Mayor Konopa read at the August 14, 2009, City Council meeting. This discussion also began planning for the Commission to host a National Night Out event that would include recognition of Everybody’s Neighborhood Day in 2010.

**August:** In order to increase community awareness of the Commission and its purpose and to increase the Commissioners’ understanding of citizens’ experience, the Commission sponsored a public forum at Ray’s Food Place Community Room in North Albany. More than 200 pieces of promotional literature were distributed through Neighborhood Watch leaders, businesses, churches, and personal contact, reading “Come, Talk, Listen! The Human Relations Commission wants to hear about YOUR experience living in Albany!” Posters were hung at City locations including the libraries, Senior Center, and City Hall.

Information was broadcast on radio and published in the *Democrat-Herald*. Thirteen community members attended the forum and spoke in response to questions that included:

- Why would you, or why would you not, recommend Albany as a good place to live?
- Have you attended a community event or activity in the past year? If yes, talk about the experience. If not, why not?
- How easy is it to get around in the city? What if you use a walker, wheelchair, or stroller?

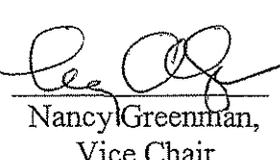
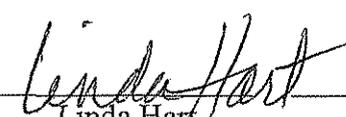
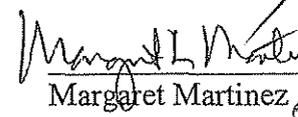
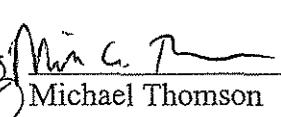
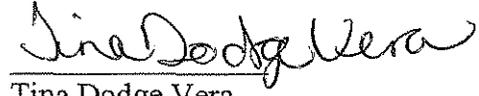
Participants shared examples of both positive and negative aspects to Albany life and shared information about resources and gaps in local services.

**October:** Initiated involvement with the Hispanic Advisory Council of Linn/Benton Counties. A member of the HRC attends monthly meetings to bring appropriate information and topics to the Commission.

Partnered with Linn County Mental Health as a poster sponsor for Mental Illness Awareness Month.

**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 staff, including City Manager Wes Hare, Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith, and Administrative Assistant Diana Eilers; and of its collaborative partners, including Linn-Benton Community College, Greater Albany Public Schools, Linn County Mental Health, and Oregon State University. It is also grateful to City staff members who attended meetings to share information and answer questions, including Melanie Adams, Building Official; Lisa Bennett, Disability Access Coordinator; Jim Delapoer, City Attorney; and Stewart Taylor, Finance Director; and to Laura Hyde, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, 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	 Linda Hart	 Julie Jones
 Margaret Martinez	 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.

**Current HRC Roster (as of July 14, 2010)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointment By</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
Julie Jones	Councilor Floyd Collins	12-31-2010
Michael Thomson	Mayor Sharon Konopa	12-31-2010
Nancy Greenman	Councilor Dick Olsen	12-31-2011
Margaret Martinez	Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr.	12-31-2011
Linda Hart	Councilor Bill Coburn	12-31-2012
Tina Dodge Vera	Councilor Jeff Christman	12-31-2012
Kim Whitley	Councilor Bessie Johnson	12-31-2012

Visit 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