



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

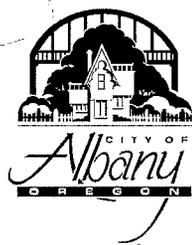
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall, Willamette Room
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - January 24, 2012. [Pages 1-3]
Action: _____
4. SCHEDULED BUSINESS
 - a. Business from the Public
 - b. Mental Health Awareness. [Verbal] (Whitley)
 - Guest: Frank Moore, Administrator/Mental Health Director, Linn County Mental HealthAction: _____
 - c. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration. [Verbal] (Greenman)
 - Continued discussion of "Where MLK's 'Dream' is Today" event, Wednesday, March 7Action: _____
 - d. HEART to Heart Resource Fair, Thursday, May 17. [Verbal] (Smith)
 - Does the Commission want to participate; and, if so, how?Action: _____
 - e. Debrief
 - 1) Human Relations Award. [Verbal] (Thomson)
Action: _____
 - f. Updates
 - 1) Annual reports. [Pages 4-13] (Whitley/Greenman)
 - January 2010 thru December 2010 [draft available Tuesday]
 - January 2011 thru December 2011 [Pages 4-8]
 - January 2009 thru December 2009 (attached only as a reference) [Pages 9-13]Action: _____
 - 2) Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC). [Verbal] (Dodge Vera)
Action: _____
 - 3) Calendar of Events: 2012. [Page 14] (Whitley)
Action: _____
5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION
6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
7. ADJOURNMENT

City of Albany Web site: www.cityofalbany.net

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.



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (HRC)
City Hall, Municipal Court Room
Tuesday, January 24, 2012

MINUTES

- Commissioners present: Kim Whitley, Michael Thomson, Linda Hart, Leonor Rodriguez, and Nancy Greenman
- Commissioners absent: Julie Jones (excused), Tina Dodge Vera (excused)
- Staff present: Wes Hare, City Manager; Marilyn Smith, Public Information Officer/Management Assistant
- Others present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kim Whitley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

Whitley, along with the rest of the group, welcomed Leonor Rodriguez to the commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 29, 2011

Greenman noted there were (3) corrections to the minutes: the spelling of Jeanette Emerson's name, the name for the Diversity Achievement Center, and the name for the Freedom Riders.

MOTION: Michael Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes (as amended); Nancy Greenman seconded. Approved 5-0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration

Whitley stated that many of the events had been cancelled due to flooding issues. She also shared that most of the events were scheduled during the middle of the day making it hard for people who work during the day to attend. Whitley suggested that when planning next year's event they consider hosting it in the evening to accommodate more people's work schedules. Greenman attended a film in honor of the celebration on Sunday night that she found beneficial.

Greenman discussed the project called "Continue the Dream." The project is sponsored for the first time by the Albany Peace Seekers along with GAPS and the Boys & Girls Club. Packets are given to teachers that include a statement of the dream and thought provoking questions regarding the dream's relevance for today. Grades three through twelve participate. Students create one-, two-, and three-dimensional works such as poetry and visuals. The students' works could be exhibited at the Boys & Girls Club, the Senior Center, and various places. The Albany Peace Seekers have reserved the Albany Public Library on Wednesday, March 7, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for the event including an open house and a formal presentation. Greenman proposed the commission participate in the event.

January 24, 2012

Greenman read the Statement of the Dream to the group. Thomson said that the statement is a great start to the project. He stated that it really brings the meaning of MLK day into focus. Whitley asked how Greenman proposed the commission participate. Greenman suggested the members attend the event, be formally acknowledged, and possibly speak.

MOTION: Whitley moved that the HRC participate, be formally acknowledged, and say a few words at the event; Greenman seconded. Approved 5-0.

Greenman will share more details of the project at the next meeting, and the commission will decide who will speak.

Whitley added that she is reading the book *The Help* and suggested that the commission possibly sponsor a showing of the movie next year.

Human Relations Award

Thomson asked how the City Council would want to handle the presentation and whether the Mayor would like to present the award. Hare said that the Mayor would be happy to present the award or to introduce a commission member to do the presenting. The award would be presented at the beginning of the council meeting. Greenman said that Sharon Geisler's family is planning to come. Since Rodriguez is new to the commission, Thomson explained the award and the process behind it. Rodriguez asked about the nominee. Thomson described her community involvement with Habitat for Humanity and her involvement with the creation of the HRC. Smith revealed the actual award to the group. Everyone expressed their approval. Thomson explained the company that created the award. Aurora Glass Awards hand makes their awards with recycled glass, and they are connected to our community through their sister company, St. Vincent de Paul. Whitley expressed that she would be willing to present the award but would like to see Thomson perform the presentation since he was the motivating force behind the award. Thomson agreed to present the award. Greenman expressed appreciation for Thomson's development of the award process.

Rodriguez asked how the award was funded. Hare explained that there is a limited amount of money available in the city budget to support the boards and commissions.

Whitley asked that the award be put on the calendar for next year. She asked the group if they would like to keep the same schedule with submission in October, selection in November, and presentation in January. Whitley said that she liked that the presentation coincided with the Martin Luther King holiday. The group agreed and expressed their desire to keep the same schedule.

Annual Report

Whitley asked for a summary of the commission's activity for the next meeting. Greenman asked for last year's report to use as a template. Smith recommended using past minutes as a source of information for the summary.

Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC)

No update at this time.

Calendar of Events: 2012

Greenman asked to include the event, "Continue the Dream," on March 7.

Whitley said the next event was the Mental Health Month in May. Smith shared that Linn County usually sponsors a poster and offered to contact Frank Moore for this year's details. Whitley asked who usually sponsors the movie. Smith said that would be NAMI and that Mental Illness Awareness month is in October. Wes asked if there was interest in meeting with advocates or with Frank Moore at the next meeting. The group was receptive of the idea. Wes said that he and Marilyn would invite Frank Moore and look into other connections. Greenman and Thomson were supportive of sponsoring the poster.

Whitley wondered about the "Hands Across the Bridge" event. Smith volunteered to look into it.

Hart asked about the Homeless Resource Fair. Smith said that it is being held on Thursday, May 17, at the Boys & Girls Club. Whitley said that last year's fair was a great success, and Greenman suggested participating again. Greenman said that there was great participation in the survey they issued at the event. Whitley asked for the event to be added to the calendar.

Rodriguez shared that the health department is performing a survey right now regarding health in the community. Rodriguez also shared about a fund-raiser for senior citizens where they will be selling enchiladas. The fund-raiser will be Monday, May 7, following Cinco de Mayo. The enchiladas will be made at the Senior Center and sold in the plaza outside City Hall. Rodriguez will be helping to make the enchiladas.

Greenman reminded the group of Festival Latino coming up in September.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Burrese
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,

Wes Hare
City Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Eilers
Administrative Assistant I

**Albany Human Relations Commission
Annual Report (January – December 2011)**

Date:

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 2011 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

April:

Met with Employment Specialist Debbie Little and youth workers from the Community Services Consortium to share information about the Human Relations Commission and hear about their experiences in Albany and suggestions for making Albany a more welcoming place for youth.

May:

Cosponsored Mental Health month poster.

Staffed a table at the HEART Resource Fair. Distributed 50 bags of personal hygiene and other supplies. Gathered attendee feedback on a brief survey. Seventy-one people completed the survey: 56% lived in Southeast Albany and 21% lived in Southwest. Age ranged from 18 to 74 years old. Ninety percent identified as white, 8% as Native American and white (both), and 1% as Latino. Eight-three percent said they’d recommend Albany as a welcoming place to live; 66% said they had attended another Albany community event in the past year; and 70% said it was either easy or very easy to get around town. Thirty percent said it was either somewhat or very difficult.

June:

Cochair Greenman represented HRC at the Linn-Benton Community College Diversity Achievement Center Juneteenth Celebration.

July:

Met with the Hispanic Advisory Committee to share information and ideas. Developed practical suggestions for welcoming and including the Latino community into City events and civic life.

Staffed a table at River Rhythms concerts to share information about the Human Relations Commission and to hear concert-goers’ experience in Albany.

August:

Continued participation at River Rhythms (August 4 & 11). In total, 62 people completed surveys: 87% said they would recommend Albany as a welcoming place to live; 79% had attended a community event in the past year (most had attended prior River Rhythms concerts); and 85% said that it was either easy (65%) or very easy (20%) to get around Albany.

September:

Met with Anna Benson from Linn Benton Housing Authority, to hear about the programs and opportunities offered. The Commission proposed a meeting with program participants. This is still pending, and the HRC hopes the conversation will take place in 2012.

Participated in Festival Latino. HRC members served as Festival greeters, welcoming people as they arrived and urging them to participate in the Festival raffle.

October:

Distributed and publicized information and nomination forms for the first Annual Human Relations Award.

November:

Approved the first Albany Human Relations Award to Sharon Gisler (to be presented in January 2012).

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 City of Albany staff, including City Manager Wes Hare, City Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith, Administrative Assistant Diana Eilers, and Executive Assistant Laura Hyde. 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

Leonor Rodriguez

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.
- 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.

Current HRC Roster (as of February 22, 2011)

| Name | Appointment By | Term Expiration Date |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 |
| Julie Jones | Councilor Floyd Collins | 12-31-2013 |
| Michael Thomson | Mayor Sharon Konopa | 12-31-2013 |
| Nancy Greenman | Councilor Dick Olsen | 12-31-2014 |
| Leonor Rodriguez | Councilor Ray Kopczynski | 12-31-2014 |

Visitors 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
Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Catherine Henderson, Mental Health Advisory

Visitors who have 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.

**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.

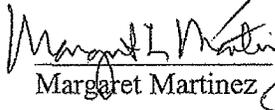
Respectfully submitted,

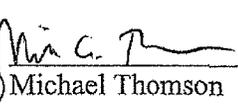

Kim Whitley,
Chair


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)

| Name | Appointment By | Term Expiration Date |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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

**Albany Human Relations Commission
Annual Report (January – December 2011)**

Date:

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 2011 is set forth below. A history of Commission membership and attendance is attached to this report.

April:

Met with Employment Specialist Debbie Little and youth workers from the Community Services Consortium to share information about the Human Relations Commission and hear about their experiences in Albany and suggestions for making Albany a more welcoming place for youth.

May:

Cosponsored Mental Health month poster.

Staffed a table at the HEART Resource Fair. Distributed 50 bags of personal hygiene and other supplies. Gathered attendee feedback on a brief survey. Seventy-one people completed the survey: 56% lived in Southeast Albany and 21% lived in Southwest. Age ranged from 18 to 74 years old. Ninety percent identified as white, 8% as Native American and white (both), and 1% as Latino. Eight-three percent said they’d recommend Albany as a welcoming place to live; 66% said they had attended another Albany community event in the past year; and 70% said it was either easy or very easy to get around town. Thirty percent said it was either somewhat or very difficult.

June:

Cochair Greenman represented HRC at the Linn-Benton Community College Diversity Achievement Center Juneteenth Celebration.

July:

Met with the Hispanic Advisory Committee to share information and ideas. Developed practical suggestions for welcoming and including the Latino community into City events and civic life.

Staffed a table at River Rhythms concerts to share information about the Human Relations Commission and to hear concert-goers’ experience in Albany.

August:

Continued participation at River Rhythms (August 4 & 11). In total, 62 people completed surveys: 87% said they would recommend Albany as a welcoming place to live; 79% had attended a community event in the past year (most had attended prior River Rhythms concerts); and 85% said that it was either easy (65%) or very easy (20%) to get around Albany.

September:

Met with Anna Benson from Linn Benton Housing Authority, to hear about the programs and opportunities offered. The Commission proposed a meeting with program participants. This is still pending, and the HRC hopes the conversation will take place in 2012.

Participated in Festival Latino. HRC members served as Festival greeters, welcoming people as they arrived and urging them to participate in the Festival raffle.

October:

Distributed and publicized information and nomination forms for the first Annual Human Relations Award.

November:

Approved the first Albany Human Relations Award to Sharon Gisler (to be presented in January 2012).

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 City of Albany staff, including City Manager Wes Hare, City Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith, Administrative Assistant Diana Eilers, and Executive Assistant Laura Hyde. 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

Leonor Rodriguez

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.
- 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.

Current HRC Roster (as of February 22, 2011)

| Name | Appointment By | Term Expiration Date |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 |
| Julie Jones | Councilor Floyd Collins | 12-31-2013 |
| Michael Thomson | Mayor Sharon Konopa | 12-31-2013 |
| Nancy Greenman | Councilor Dick Olsen | 12-31-2014 |
| Leonor Rodriguez | Councilor Ray Kopczynski | 12-31-2014 |

Visitors 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
Frank Moore, Linn County Mental Health
Catherine Henderson, Mental Health Advisory

Visitors who have 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

**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?

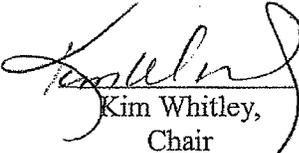
Participants shared examples of both positive and negative aspects to Albany life and shared information about resources and gaps in local services.

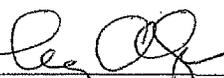
October: Initiated involvement with the Hispanic Advisory Council of Linn/Benton Counties. A member of the HRC attends monthly meetings to bring appropriate information and topics to the Commission.

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.

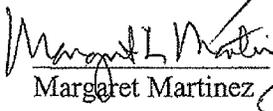
Respectfully submitted,

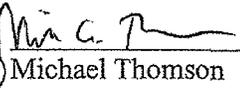

Kim Whitley,
Chair


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)

| Name | Appointment By | Term Expiration Date |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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

Calendar of Events for 2012

~~January 11-25, 2012, City Council meeting – 2011 Human Relations Award recipient presentation~~

~~January ??, 2012 – Martin Luther King, Jr., event
Freedom Writers movie viewing~~

February 2012 –

March 2012 –

March 7, 2012 – Continue the Dream Project Event @ Main Library, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

April 2012 –

May 2012 – Mental Health month

May 17, 2012 – HEART Homeless Fair @ Boys & Girls Club

June 2012 – Submission of January 2010 thru December 2011 annual report to the City Council

July 4, 2012 – Hosting a booth at River Rhythms 4th of July night concert [*Wednesday, July 4*]

July 2012 – Hosting a booth at River Rhythms Thursday night concerts [*July 12 & 26*]

July 24, 2012 – HRC/HAC joint meeting, 3:00 p.m.

August 7, 2012 – National Night Out Event

August 2012 – Hosting a booth at River Rhythms Thursday night concerts [*August 2 & 9*]

September 2012 – Greeters at Festival Latino, Saturday, September 15, 2012, noon-4:00 p.m.

October 2012 – Mental Illness Awareness month

Submission of Human Relations Award (HRA) applications [*October 15-November 15*]

November 2012 – Submission of HRA applications [*October 15-November 15*]

November 16-27, 2012 – HRA Subcommittee meets to evaluate HRA applications

November 27, 2012 – Selection of Human Relations Award recipient

December 2012 –