

**Albany Human Relations Commission  
Annual Report (January – December 2016)**

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) 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.”

A history of commission membership and attendance is attached to this report, along with a calendar of 2016 HRC meetings and events that HRC members attended.

Here are some of the year’s Human Relations Commission highlights:

- Upon the recommendation of the Human Relations Commission, the City Council adopted an ordinance amendment removing the term limit for HRC members at the January 13, 2016, City Council meeting. The next month, longtime commissioners Kim Whitley and Tina Dodge Vera were reappointed to the HRC.
- Commissioners Javier Cervantes and Graham Kislingbury made the 2015 Human Relations Award presentations at the February 10, 2016, City Council meeting. Commissioner Chris Equinoa also attended the presentation. **Individual Category:** *Nominees:* Peter & Sue Goodman; Pat Loy; Buzz Wheeler; and Sandy Roberts. *Winner:* Pat Loy. **Organization/Business Category:** *Nominees:* Community Action for Racial Equity (C.A.R.E.); Sanctuary Stage; and the Welcome Center of GAPS 8J. *Winner:* Community Action for Racial Equity.
- The Commission’s 2015 Annual Report was received by the Albany City Council on April 13, 2016.
- The Commission held its semiannual joint meetings with the Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) of Linn and Benton Counties on May 24, 2016, and October 25, 2016.

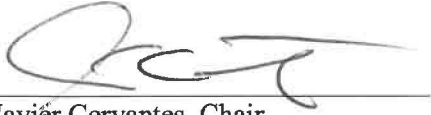
One or more Human Relations Commission members attended/participated in the following:

- More than 20 meetings, including regular HRC meetings that started at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month.
- More than 35 events, including:
  - Organizing and participating in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance, at which the civil rights leader’s Nobel Prize acceptance speech was read, on January 15, 2016.
  - Participating in the annual HEART to Heart Resource Fair on May 17, 2016.
  - Volunteering as greeters and basket passers at River Rhythms and Summer Sounds concerts.
  - Attending National Night Out (Against Crime) event on August 2, 2016.
  - Helping as shuttle drivers, with kids’ activities and other volunteer roles at Northwest Art & Air Festival.
  - Serving on the planning committee and helping with setup, takedown, emceeding, and greeting at Festival Latino on September 25, 2016.
  - Helping organize the annual Fish Food Drive breakfast, held October 22, 2016, at First Christian Church.
  - Participating in the Annual Summit on Homelessness on November 2, 2016.
  - Attendance at four Coffee with a Cop events.

The Human Relations Commission's primary focus is people. In addition to all of the above, we spent considerable time listening to people, asking questions, and observing. We, the six commissioners (we had one vacancy), enjoyed serving on the HRC in 2016. We did our very best to be good ambassadors for the city of Albany.

We thank the City Council for its continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



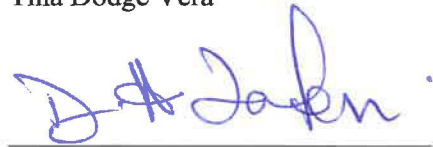
Javiér Cervantes, Chair



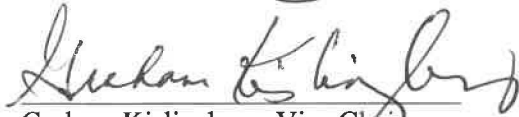
Tina Dodge Vera



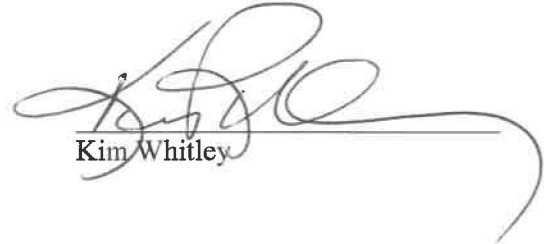
Chris Equinoa



Denise Hughes-Tafen



Graham Kislingbury, Vice Chair



Kim Whitley



Alice Brockgreitens

## 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*].

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.*

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, 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.
- 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.
- 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 Kislisbury 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.
- 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.

**Current HRC Roster (as of August 15, 2017)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointment By</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
Denise Hughes-Tafen	Councilor Ray Kopczynski	12-31-2017
Graham Kislingbury	Councilor Dick Olsen	12-31-2017
Tina Dodge Vera	Councilor Bill Coburn	12-31-2018
Kim Whitley	Councilor Bessie Johnson	12-31-2018
Javier Cervantes	Councilor Rich Kellum	12-31-2018
Chris Equinoa	Mayor Sharon Konopa	12-31-2019
Alice Brockgreitens	Councilor Mike Sykes	12-31-2019

**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

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

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



## Calendar of Events for 2016

**January 15, 2016** – Martin Luther King, Jr., event, noon, City Hall Council Chambers  
**January 17, 2016** – Workshop on racism, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Albany First Christian Church  
**January 24, 2016** – Workshop on racism, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Albany First Christian Church  
**January 26, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room  
**January 31, 2016** – Workshop on racism, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Albany First Christian Church

**February 7, 2016** – White Out? The Future of Racial Diversity in Oregon, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Corvallis Public Library.  
**February 9, 2016** – Coffee With A Cop, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Cork's Old Fashioned Donuts  
**February 10, 2016** – City Council meeting, 7:15 p.m., Council Chambers – 2015 Human Relations Awards presentation  
**February 20, 2016** – Linn Benton HAC retreat, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., LBCC's Diversity Achievement Center, Albany  
**February 23, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room  
**February 24, 2016** – Annual Unity Celebration, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., LBCC's Fireside Room in the Calapooia Center

~~**March 22-29, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room *canceled*~~

**April 13, 2016** – City Council meeting, 7:15 p.m., Council Chambers – 2015 HRC Annual Report presentation  
**April 26, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

**May 2016** – Mental Health month

**May 5, 2016** – Coffee With A Cop, 7:30-10:00 a.m., Allann Bros Beanery Café, 1852 Fescue Street SE  
**May 9, 2016** – Dr. Robin DiAngelo (antiracism author), guest speaker @ LBCC, 2:00 p.m., Forum Lecture Hall (F-104)  
**May 10, 2016** – GAPS Community Forum for Oregon Rising, 6:00-7:30 p.m., North Albany Middle School  
**May 11, 2016** – OneVibe Diversity Day! @ LBCC, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., LBCC Courtyard  
**May 17, 2016** – HEART to Heart Resource Fair @ Boys & Girls Club of Albany, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**May 17, 2016** – GAPS Community Forum for Oregon Rising, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Clover Ridge Elementary School  
**May 24, 2016** – HRC/Linn Benton HAC joint meeting, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room  
– April HRC meeting, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room  
**May 25, 2016** – GAPS Community Forum for Oregon Rising, 6:00-7:30 p.m., South Albany High School

**June 28, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

**July 7, 2016** – River Rhythms concert [*Samantha Fish, blues guitar*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 11, 2016** – Summer Sounds concert [*Curtis Salgado, soul, blues and R&B*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 18, 2016** – Summer Sounds concert [*Justin Shandor, Ultimate Elvis tribute artist*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 21, 2016** – River Rhythms concert [*The New Breed Brass Band*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 25, 2016** – Summer Sounds concert [*Misty Mamas, home-style bluegrass, oldtime, gospel, & folk*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 28, 2016** – River Rhythms concert [*The Fab Four, Beatles tribute band*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**July 26, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

**August 1, 2016** – Summer Sounds concert [*The Essentials, soul, funk, and R&B*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**August 2, 2016** – National Night Out Event: *HRC hosting an event at Sunrise Park (water balloons & soccer nets for kids)*  
**August 4, 2016** – River Rhythms concert [*Canaan Smith, country*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**August 10, 2016** – Linn County Mental Health picnic  
**August 11, 2016** – River Rhythms concert [*The Little River Band, Australian rock*], 7:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**August 26-28, 2016** – Northwest Art & Air Festival, Timber-Linn Memorial Park  
~~**August 23, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room *No meeting for lack of quorum*~~

**September 22, 2016** – Coffee With A Cop, 8:00-10:00 a.m., Universal Coffee, 1159 Santiam Road SE  
**September 25, 2016** – Greeters at Festival Latino, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monteith Riverpark  
**September 27, 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

## Calendar of Events for 2016

**October 2016** – Mental Illness Awareness month

– Submission of Human Relations Award (HRA) nomination forms [*October 7-December 2*]

**October 4, 11, 18, and/or 25, 2016** – Community Meal (in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness month)  
4:30-6:30 p.m., First Christian Church, 432 Ferry Street SW, Albany

**October 5, 2016** – GAPS Community Meeting – Bond Discussion, 6:00 p.m., Timber Ridge School

**October 12, 2016** – 2016 Oregon Conference on Aging, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., OSU Alumni Center, Corvallis

**October 12, 2016** – GAPS Community Meeting – Bond Discussion, 6:00 p.m., Oak Grove School

**October 18, 2016** – Fair Housing Law – free workshop (in English), 5:30-6:30 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

**October 20, 2016** – Fair Housing Law – free workshop (in Spanish), 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sunrise Elementary School Cafeteria

**October 20, 2016** – GAPS Community Meeting – Bond Discussion, 6:00 p.m., West Albany High School

**October 22, 2016** – FISH food drive

**October 25, 2016** – HRC/Linn Benton HAC joint meeting, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

– October HRC meeting, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Municipal Court Room

**October 26, 2016** – “Freedom of Expression When I Agree With It” presentation, noon, LBCC

**October 26, 2016** – GAPS Community Meeting – Bond Discussion, 6:00 p.m., South Albany High School

**November 2016** – Submission of HRA nomination forms [*October 7-December 2*]

**November 2, 2016** – Annual Summit on Homelessness, 9:00 a.m.-noon, City Hall

**November 2, 2016** – Albany Public Library’s Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos program, 6:00 p.m., Main Branch,  
2450 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE

**November 3, 2016** – Mid Valley Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,  
The River Center, 3000 S. Santiam Highway, Lebanon

**November 9, 2016** – Caregiver Appreciation Day, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall,  
1115 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Albany

**November 18, 2016** – International Culture Night, 7:00-9:00 p.m., LBCC-Albany Campus, Tripp Theater

**November 22, 2016** - HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

**December 2, 2016** – Coffee with a Cop, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cellar Cat, 211 First Avenue W

**December 9, 2016** – Deadline for submission of HRA nomination forms

**After December 9, 2016** – HRA Subcommittee meets to evaluate HRA applications and makes recommendations

**December 12, 2016** – Annual Mental Health Association Christmas Dinner, 5:30 p.m., First Christian Church

**December 20, ~~27~~ 2016** – HRC meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall Willamette Room

**December 21, 2016** – Homeless Person’s Memorial Service, 5:30 p.m., City Hall Plaza