



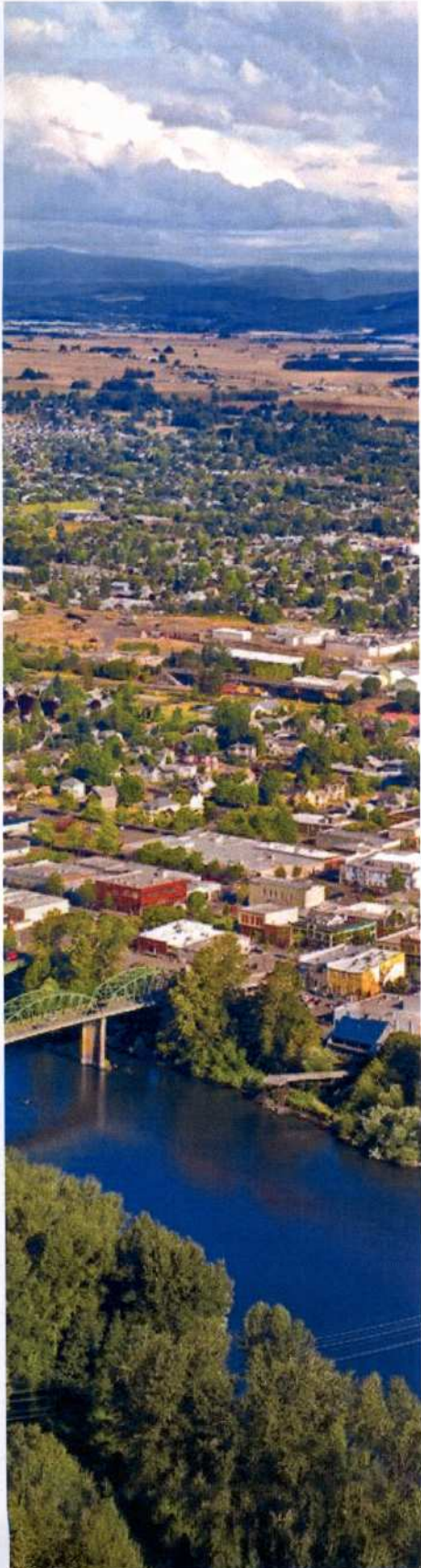
# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY:**

Stephanie Newton • Chris Equinoa • Alice Brockgreitens • Scott Lawley  
• Jessi Brenneman • Daniel Ropp • Jo Rae Perkins



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# Introduction

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) was established in 2007 by the Albany City Council to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany.

It was created to recommend programs, activities, ordinances, expenditures, and other appropriate governmental activities which will serve the goal of maintaining respectful interactions within our community. The HRC recommendations are submitted to the City Council and City Manager.

In formulating its recommendations, the HRC strives for actions that lead to positive and respectful relations committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community. The duties of the Commission do not include the investigation or sanctioning of individual acts of unlawful or discriminatory behavior, but instead focus on recommending community activities that may be expected to promote positive change.

A history of commission membership and attendance is attached to this report, along with a calendar of 2018 HRC meetings and events that HRC members attended.





## **JANUARY**

### **01/23/18 — INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER**

Stephanie Newton was introduced as the newest member of the Human Relations Commission, replacing Graham Kislingbury.

## **FEBRUARY**

### **02/22/18 — COFFEE WITH A COP**

Alice Brockgreitens attended the event. She reported that the coffee shop was very good, and the meeting was nice with several agencies represented. It was noted that Sheriff Bruce Riley will be retiring and is recommending the Undersheriff Jim Young for his position. Cervantes expressed that he would like to meet with Young to discuss his views and pertinent issues

### **02/27/18 — LBCC UNITY CELEBRATION**

Commissioners attended the LBCC Unity Celebration and connected students with city resources.

## **MARCH**

### **03/27/18 — LINN-BENTON HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE**

The subcommittee decided on four education topics: immigration, race, LGBTQ, and early childhood.

## APRIL

### 04/24/18 — HRC <> HAC JOINT MEETING

Discussed respective missions, focus and how the Human Relations Commission can support the Hispanic Advisory Commission.

## MAY

### 05/09/18 — ONEVIBE DIVERSITY DAY

Members of the commission attended OneVibe Diversity Day

### 05/09/18 — HRC AWARD PRESENTATION

Stephanie Newton and Alice Brockgreitens presented HRC awards to Matt and Janel Bennett of Sybaris Bistro and to Barbara Doolan.



*Sybaris Bistro owners, Matt and Janel Bennett accept their HRC Award for the Business category from Commissioner Stephanie Newton.*



*Barbara Doolan receives her HRC award for the Individual category from Commissioner Alice Brockgreitens.*

## JUNE

### 06/23/18 — PRIDE MARCH

Members of the commission attended the Albany Pride March in support of LGBTQ+ members of the community.

## JULY

### 07/29/18 — FESTIVAL LATINO

Members of the commission volunteered and attended Festival Latino as a way to support the Hispanic Advisory Commission.

## AUGUST

### 08/07/18 — NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Each of the commissioners attended their neighborhoods National Night Out event and drove around to several other neighborhood events to check in with members of the community.

### 08/23-24/18 — NORTHWEST ART AND AIR FESTIVAL

Brockgreitens highlighted the Northwest Art and Air Festival. Great event for folks of all ages and backgrounds.



*Desert Storm veteran Michael Strom, and his son Matthew, visit with Kara Strametz and Yolanda Christner during Septembers Mid-Valley Stand Down event.*

## SEPTEMBER

### 09/20/18 — MID-VALLEY STAND DOWN FOR VETERANS

Cervantes attended this year's event and noted that visitors were invited to talk with a variety of service representatives, all of whom stood ready to help them with insurance benefits, low-income housing, health and dental questions, employment information and more.

Volunteers at one booth provided free haircuts. Another room was stocked with clothing to give away. Still another area had tents, sleeping bags and other equipment to ease the strain of outdoor living.

## OCTOBER

### 10/03/18 — COFFEE WITH A COP

Chris Equinoa and Alice Brockgreitens attended and reported that calls to the schools have been significantly reduced this year, but one concern the officers have is the way some students feel they have the license to make fun of marginalized students. The officers are addressing the issue by having individual conversations with students.

### 10/14/18 — (IN)VISIBLE SERIES: "STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY" COMMUNITY PANEL

Subcommittee hosted community panelists and discussed the intersectionality between homelessness, immigration, race, LGBTQ+, and early childhood development.

## NOVEMBER

### 11/07/18 — ANNUAL SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS

Representatives of the commission attended and connected with members of the community.

### 11/11/18 — (IN)VISIBLE SERIES: "OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES" DISCUSSION

Subcommittee hosted a small group discussion with the goal of building community unity, developing deeper awareness, and networking. During this discussion, we took complex terms and ideas, like "Explain intersectionality and how it hurts the community", and made them very easy for people to understand.

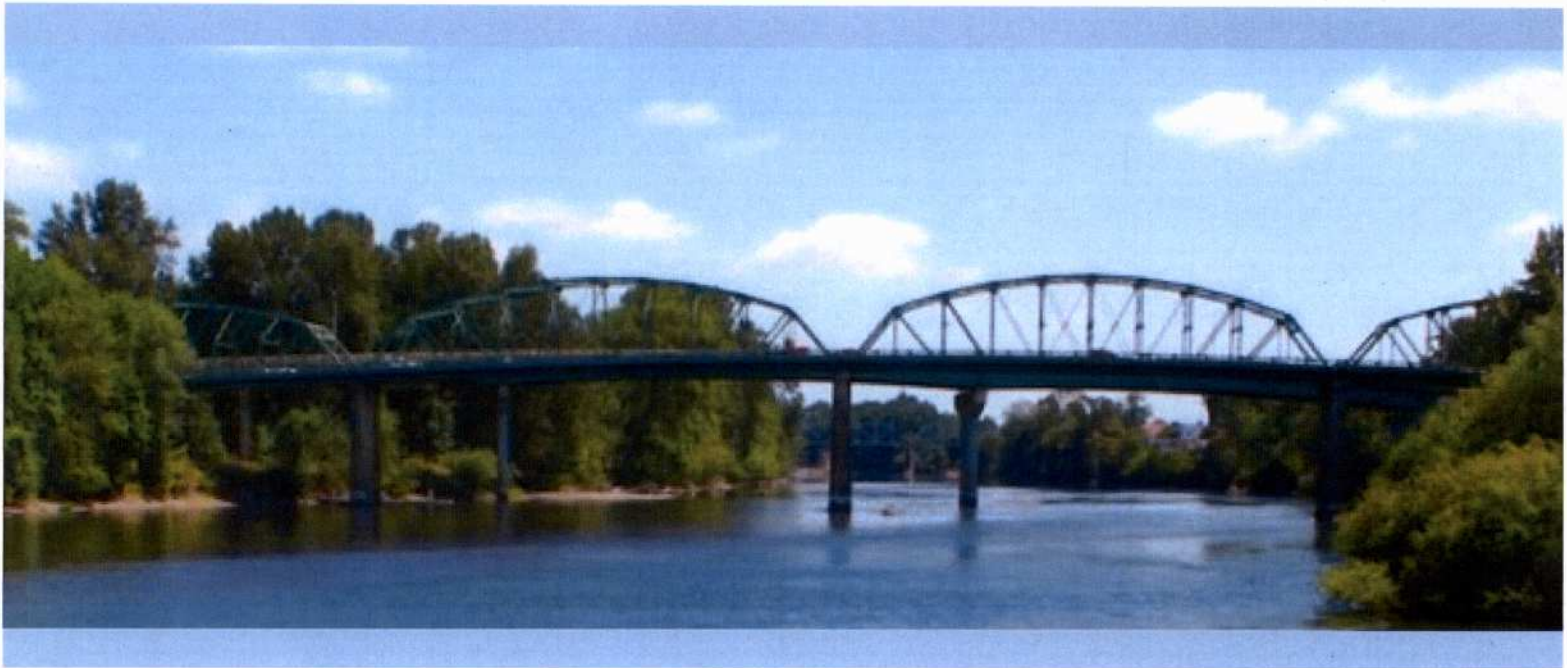
## DECEMBER

### 12/09/18 — (IN)VISIBLE SERIES: LOCAL RESOURCES PANEL

Subcommittee hosted a panel with representatives from the following organizations: Early learning HUB, the City of Albany, Linn County Judicial System, Faith based, Linn County Rapid Response Team, NAACP, Padres en Acción to discuss what diversity, equity and inclusion for these organizations.

### 12/20/18 — HOMELESS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Several members of the commission attended.

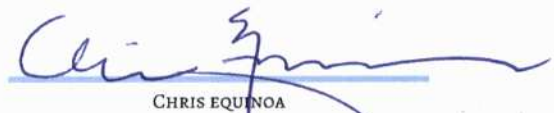


# Conclusion

It is a pleasure to continue to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting harmonious relations among the citizens of Albany through our recommendations and support for activities and actions that lead to positive and respectful interactions committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community.

We have met that goal to the best of our ability and feel our output is commendable, considering limited resources. The Commission members believe the commission is still needed and valued and there is still a lot of work to do. We thank the City Council for their support.

  
STEPHANIE NEWTON

  
CHRIS EQUINOA

  
ALICE BROCKGREITENS


  
SCOTT LAWLEY

  
JAVIER CERVANTES

\_\_\_\_\_  
KIM WHITLEY

  
TINA DODGE-VERA





# HISTORY

— OF THE —

# 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 is established by the Albany City Council to strengthen connections within Albany's diverse community by being committed to the philosophy of inclusion, equal opportunity, fair treatment for all residents of Albany and promoting 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.

# Duties & Responsibilities

The Human Relations Commission shall meet periodically in public sessions at dates, times, and places as may be established by the Commission. The Commission shall have the duty to make recommendations to the City Council and the City Manager as outlined in AMC 2.25.010.

In formulating its recommendations, the Human Relations Commission shall strive for actions that lead to positive and respectful relations committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the community. The duties of the Commission will not include the investigation or sanctioning of individual acts of unlawful or discriminatory behavior but will, instead, focus on recommending community activities that may be expected to promote positive change. The duties of the Human Relations Commission may be revised at any time, after public notice, by resolution.

## First Commissioners

NAME	APPOINTED BY	TERM
Rafael Palacios*	Mayor Doug Killin	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2007
Blanca Ruckert	Mayor Doug Killin	08/08/2007 — 12/31/2007
Jodi Nelson	Councilor Dan Redore	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2007
Rick Hammel Jr.	Councilor Dick Olsen	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2008
Delia Guillen	Councilor Ralph Reid, Jr.	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2008
C. Jeffery Evans	Councilor Sharon Konopa	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009
Marian Anderson	Councilor Jeff Christman	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009
Anna Anderson	Councilor Bessie Johnson	07/25/2007 — 12/31/2009

*\*Resigned 08/08/2007; Blanca Ruckert appointed as replacement*

## 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

## **BLANCA RUCKERT**

Reappointed by Mayor Killin on 01/07/2008  
Term expires 12/31/2010

## **DELIA GUILLEN**

Resigned 09/09/2008

## **MARGARET MARTINEZ**

Appointed by Councilor Reid on 01/14/2009  
*as replacement for John Hartman*  
Term expires 12/31/2011

## **BLANCA RUCKERT**

Resigned 04/22/2009

## **C. JEFFERY EVANS**

Resigned 06/24/2009

## **MARIAN ANDERSON**

Resigned 09/09/2009

## **JODI NELSON**

Reappointed by Councilor Bedore on 01/09/2008  
Term expires 12/31/2010

## **JOHN HARTMAN**

Appointed by Councilor Reid on 10/22/2008  
*as replacement for Delia Guillen*  
Term expires 12/31/2008

## **NANCY GREENMAN**

Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/14/2009  
*as replacement for Rick Hammel, Jr.*  
Term expires 12/31/2011

## **MICHAEL THOMPSON**

Appointed by Mayor Konopa on 06/24/2009  
*as replacement for Blanca Ruckert*  
Term expires 12/31/2010

## **LINDA HART**

Appointed by Councilor Coburn on 06/23/2010  
*as replacement for C. Jeffery Evans*  
Term expires 12/31/2012

## **TINA DODGE VERA**

Appointed by Councilor Christman on 02/10/2010  
*as replacement for Marian Anderson*  
Term expires 12/31/2012

# Subsequent Commissioners

*Continued*



**KIM WHITLEY**

Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/13/2010  
Term expires 12/31/2012

**JODI NELSON**

Resigned 06/10/2010

**JULIE JONES**

Appointed by Councilor Collins on 07/14/2010  
*as replacement for Jodi Nelson*  
Term expires 12/31/2010

**JULIE JONES**

Reappointed by Councilor Collins on 01/12/2011  
Term expires 12/31/2013

**MICHAEL THOMPSON**

Reappointed by Mayor Konopa on 01/12/2011  
Term expires 12/31/2013

**MARGARET MARTINEZ**

Term expired 12/31/2011

**LEONOR RODRIGUEZ**

Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 01/11/2012  
*as replacement for Margaret Martinez*  
Term expires 12/31/2014

**NANCY GREENMAN**

Reappointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/11/2012  
Term expires 12/31/2014

**JULIE JONES**

Resigned 07/11/2012

**JAVIER CERVANTES**

Appointed by Councilor Collins on 08/22/2012  
*as replacement for Julie Jones*  
Term expires 12/31/2013

**TINA DODGE VERA**

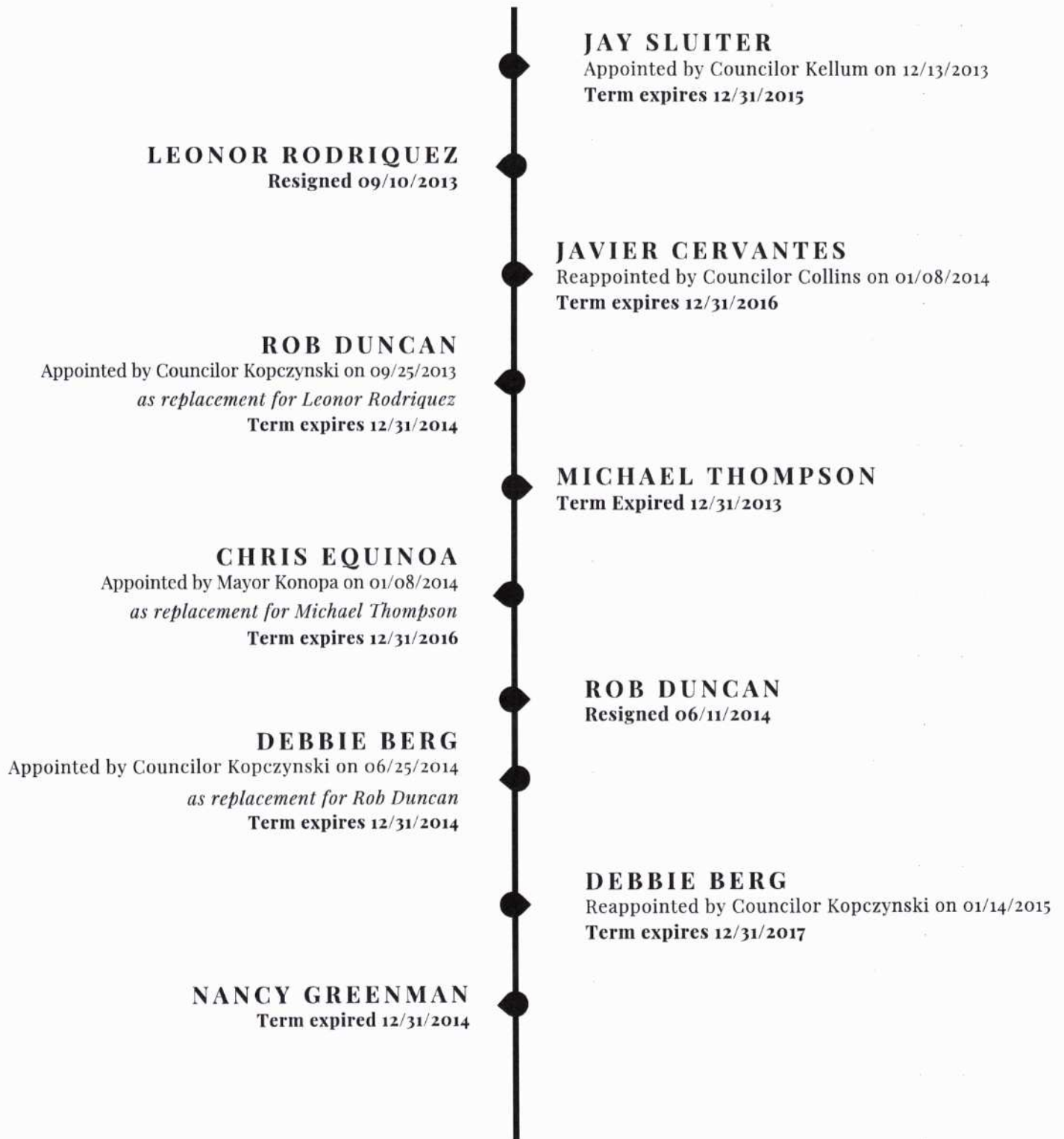
Reappointed by Councilor Coburn on 02/13/2012  
Term expires 12/31/2015

**KIM WHITLEY**

Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/09/2013  
Term expires 12/31/2015

# Subsequent Commissioners

*Continued*



# Subsequent Commissioners

*Continued*

**DEBBIE BERG**  
Resigned 07/22/2015

**GRAHAM KISLINGBURY**  
Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/14/2015  
*as replacement for Nancy Greenman*  
Term expires 12/31/2017

**TINA DODGE VERA**  
Reappointed by Councilor Coburn on 02/24/2016  
Term expires 12/31/2018

**DENISE HUGHES-TAFEN**  
Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 07/22/2015  
*as replacement for Debbie Berg*  
Term expires 12/31/2017

**JAY SLUITER**  
Term expired 12/31/2015

**KIM WHITLEY**  
Reappointed by Councilor Johnson on 02/24/2016  
Term expires 12/31/2018

**CHRIS EQUINOA**  
Reappointed by Mayor Konopa on 01/11/2017  
Term expires 12/31/2019

**ALICE BROCKGREITENS**  
Appointed by Councilor Sykes on 01/24/2017  
Term expires 12/31/2019

**JAVIER CERVANTES**  
Appointed by Councilor Kellum on 01/24/2017  
*as replacement for Jay Sluiter*  
Term expires 12/31/2018

**GRAHAM KISLINGBURY**  
Term expired 12/31/2017

# Subsequent Commissioners

*Continued*

**STEPHANIE NEWTON**  
Appointed by Councilor Olsen on 01/23/2018  
*as replacement for Graham Kislingbury*  
Term expires 12/31/2020

**DENISE HUGHES-TAFEN**  
Resigned 09/12/2018

**SCOTT LAWLEY**  
Appointed by Councilor Kopczynski on 09/12/2018  
*as replacement for Denise Hughes-Tafen*  
Term expires 12/31/20XX

**JAVIER CERVANTES**  
Term expired 12/31/2018

**TINA DODGE VERA**  
Term expired 12/31/2018

**KIM WHITLEY**  
Term expired 12/31/2018

**JESSI BRENNEMAN**  
Appointed by Councilor Johnson on 01/23/2019  
*as replacement for Kim Whitley*  
Term expires 12/31/2021

**JO RAE PERKINS**  
Appointed by Councilor Coburn on 01/23/2019  
*as replacement for Tina Dodge Vera*  
Term expires 12/31/2021

**DANIEL ROPP**  
Appointed by Councilor Kellum on 02/13/2019  
*as replacement for Javier Cervantes*  
Term expires 12/31/2021

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION BOARD ROSTER

— Last updated February 2019 —



**STEPHANIE NEWTON**

**TERM EXPIRES:** 12/31/2020

**CHRIS EQUINOA**

**TERM EXPIRES:** 12/31/2019



**ALICE BROCKGREITENS**

**TERM EXPIRES:** 12/31/2019



**SCOTT LAWLEY**

**TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2020**



**JESSI BRENNEMAN**

**TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021**

**DANIEL ROPP**

**TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021**



**JO RAE PERKINS**

**TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2021**

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

## 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

## 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*)

## 2011

Sue McGuire Thompson (*Community Services Consortium*) • Debbie Little (*Community Services Consortium*) • Vawna Shepherd • Ora Mowdy • Shawn Smith • Westin 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*)

## 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*)

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

## 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 Dixon (*GAPS*) • Unnamed (*McKinney-Vento Liaison*) • Monica Lorence (*Linn County Outreach Coordinator of Jackson Street Youth Shelter*) • Andrea Myhre (*Grant Officer with the Jackson Street Youth Shelter*)

## 2014

Tony Howell (*Linn County Mental Health*) • Tonja Everest (*Greater Albany Public Schools*) • Lisa Shogren (*Greater Albany Public Schools*) • Dan Stone (*LBCC Theatre*) • Sandy Roberts (*Community Education Specialist, City of Albany Police Department*) • Todd Noble (*Program, Manager, Linn County Mental Health*) • Denise Hughes-Tafen (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Franz Schneider (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Sue Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Casey Dorland (*Lieutenant, City of Albany Police Department*) • Zoe Kellett (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • 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*) • Peter Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Jasper Smith (*MLK Commission Chair & Program Manager for Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program*)

## 2015

Peter Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Jasper Smith (*MLK Commission Chair & Program Manager for Benton County Developmental Disabilities Program*) • Sue Goodman (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Catherine Miller (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Carmen Moody (*Community Action for Racial Equality*) • Rich Kellum (*Albany City Councilor*) • Tony Howell (*Linn County Mental Health*) • Todd Noble (*Program, Manager, Linn County Mental Health*) • Jeff Blackford (*CHANCE Executive Director*)

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION VISITORS

## 2015

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 (*Albany resident*)

## 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 Connors (*Crime Prevention Specialist, Albany Police Department*) • Dave Toler (*Director of Senior & Disability Services, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments*)

## 2017

Iris Carrasco • Sue Goodman • Nancy Greenman • Peter Goodman • David Mote • Keith Kolkow • LBCC Students • Shasta Prunk • Sharon Gisler • Jerred Taylor • Ed Hemmington  
Human Relations Commission (VISITORS) • Todd Noble, Linn County Health  
Administrator/Mental Health Director • Others who did not provide their names

## 2018

Alex Johnson II • Elizabeth Jined • Patty Louisiana (*Veterans Commemoration Association President*) • Kristina Hauge • Ron Green • Jill VanBuren • Emma Eaton • Ilynn Winn • Sarah Brock • Reverend Amber Churchill • Rafael Palacios (*Business Advisor*) • Jarumy Lindquist