

Bismarck

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations

Annual Report

2015-2016



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MISSION OF COMMITTEE

The mission of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential. We seek to make education and compliance a meaningful and visible strategy as we work to recognize the value of a diverse community.

GOALS OF COMMITTEE

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee has the following goals and objectives as defined in its strategic plan:

1. To exhibit leadership in the areas of civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will be comprised of individuals that represent and are knowledgeable of diverse populations.
 - b. The committee members will practice and model action that exemplify nondiscrimination, acceptance, and respect of diversity.
2. To educate the public about civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will implement a public education plan to identify and address issues.
 - b. The committee will actively plan, sponsor, and participate in events that promote and celebrate diversity.
3. To identify issues of principle concern in the area of civil and human rights:
 - a. The committee will provide access for public input.
 - b. The committee will prioritize issues based on input received.
4. To recommend priorities and objectives about issues of community concern to the City Commission:
 - a. The committee will serve as a liaison in issues of civil and human rights between the community and the City Commissioners.
5. To advocate for compliance with federal and state laws regarding civil and human rights, including North Dakota Century Code Chapters 14-02.4 (Human Rights) and 14-02.5 (Housing):
 - a. The committee will provide information about current laws through multiple formats.
 - b. The committee will maintain data regarding civil and human rights issues.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

Bismarck Ordinance 5208 created the Bismarck Human Relations Committee and received final passage on October 8, 2002. The committee's purpose is to promote acceptance and respect for diversity through educational programs and activities and to discourage all forms of discrimination including protected class discrimination, ADA violations, or other statutory or constitutional violations (Chapter 2-11).

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE

The committee consists of nine members who serve without pay. Member appointment is by the President of the Board of City Commissioners, and subject to confirmation by the Board of City Commissioners. Appointees serve three-year terms.

COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee meets on the third Monday of each month (except on holidays) at 5:15 pm in the First Floor Conference Room 221 of the City/County Office Building, North 5th Street in downtown Bismarck. Meetings are open to the public and accept public comment.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CURRENT TERMS

Chair - Karel Sovak
Vice Chair - Sharon Korsmo
Will Kincaid
Rissa Williams
Amy Ingersoll-Johnson
Krista Harju

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION

A copy of the Human Relations Committee Ordinance, Strategic Plan, Annual Report, complaint filing forms, and other information may be accessed online at www.bismarcknd.gov or by mailing:

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations
City of Bismarck
PO Box 5503
221 N 5 Street
Bismarck, ND 58506-5503

ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE 2015-2016

Diversity University was held in 2015 on four consecutive Thursdays in the fall, September 10th - October 1st. The events were a Discrimination Legislation forum held at BSC, a Cultural Celebration at the ND Heritage Center, Homelessness and Hospitality held at U Mary, and Interactive Bullying Prevention at UTTC. Some events were well attended, and some had disappointing numbers. For that reason, the committee voted to adapt to quarterly events in order to focus on identifying and promoting each event more fully.

So far in 2016, the committee has partnered with the ND Heritage Center for a Black History Month event titled "Living Black History in Bismarck and Beyond", for the first quarter activity. Approximately 100 people attended.

The second quarter activity was the Missouri River Intercultural Festival at Gateway Mall. An estimated 2000+ people attended this daylong event.

The third quarter forum was at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library, in partnership with the North Dakota Humanities Council. There was a book talk on Monday, July 25th, based on the book *A Dreadful Deceit: The Myth of Race from the Colonial Era to Obama's America*, by Jacqueline Jones. The ND Humanities Council will have ongoing free public lectures and discussions addressing issues our nation is facing.

The fourth quarter event is planned as a cultural meal featuring the cuisine of India, prepared by the Culinary Arts students at Legacy High School. The students will be advised by Aruna Seth, former school board member and former Human Relations Committee member. Tickets will be available to the public

The **Human Rights Essay and Poetry Contest** were held to coincide with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day and World Human Rights Day. Three winners were named from Bismarck schools, Ryan Zhang, Rylie Fode, and Haiden Pederson. The winners were presented with awards in a ceremony with the mayor on February 10th.

This annual report includes two **Humanitarian Award** winners, 2015 and 2016. The winner for 2015 was Judith Roberts, for her work opening and administrating two sober living homes in Bismarck, Hope Manor and Hope Manor II.

The recipient of the 2016 Humanitarian Award received three separate nominations. Christina Sambor was recognized as a champion of efforts that promote human and civil rights, a driving force to stop human trafficking and an advocate for victim services in North Dakota.

As a committee, we seek to grow and evolve with the community we serve. Our quarterly Diversity University series is the minimum we would like to meet for involvement. As new opportunities are known and discussed, it is our intent to provide support to community education programs as we are able to do so.

DIVERSITY UNIVERSITY 2015

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

7 p.m. Thursday, September 10
NECE Auditorium • Bismarck State College

The cultural landscape has changed with the recent Supreme Court ruling. Come learn about the impact of the ruling on the community landscape. Discussing how discrimination exists in our community and what we can do together will be Jennifer Cook of the American Civil Liberties Union.



CULTURAL HERITAGE, DIVERSITY CELEBRATION

7 p.m. Thursday, September 17
North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck, North Dakota Capitol Grounds

This local celebration of culture will include food tasting, dancing and music, from new and established cultures and ethnicities living in the Bismarck area. All are welcome to attend and join the celebration of cultures. In attendance will be the Asian Gourmet Market, La Tejana Mexican Market, The Sons of Norway, Native American drummers and more.



HOSPITALITY IN BISMARCK

7 p.m. Thursday, September 24
University of Mary, Gary Tharaldson School of Business

Jaelyn Hall, Ruth Meiers Hospitality House; Carrie Grosz of Carrie's Kids and Sr. Kathleen Atkinson, Ministry on the Margins, will lead a discussion on homelessness in the Bismarck/Mandan area. They will discuss what services are available and what each agency is doing to address the homeless in our communities. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated.



INTERACTIVE BULLYING PREVENTION

6:30 pm, Thursday, Oct 1
United Tribes Technical College, James Henry Gymnasium, Bldg. 69

United Tribes Technical College has booked a nationally known speaker, Devyn Rush, who was bullied as a child and who is now a singer and song writer after appearing on American Idol. She has an inspiring message and will be providing empowering talks to UTTC students. This event will begin at 6:30 pm with a Community Assembly and mini-concert to be held at UTTC. October is National Stop Bullying Month. Stop Bullying Week is Oct 11 – 17.



Note: Each event has a different venue so be sure to arrive at the right location.

www.bismarcknd.gov

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:





4.23.2016 MISSOURI RIVER INTERCULTURAL FESTIVAL

Gateway Mall | Bismarck, ND
10:00 am-4:00 pm.



Hosted by KATZ Events and Bismarck Global Neighbors in partnership with the Bismarck Human Relations Committee.

La Tejana Mexican Restaurant, Eat Thai Food Truck and Asian Gourmet International Market

free event!

INTERNATIONAL
FOODS, CRAFTS,
AND COSTUMES!

MUSIC, DANCING,
AND SHOPPING

SHARE YOUR
CULTURE

LEARN SOMETHING
NEW

CELEBRATE
COMMUNITY

MEET NEW FRIENDS

[www.facebook.com/
BisManIntercultural](http://www.facebook.com/BisManIntercultural)

to register a booth:

Contact Kim at ktirona@aol.com
local businesses, cultural
organizations, faith groups,
language clubs all welcome!



HUMAN RIGHTS ESSAY & POETRY CONTEST

CALLING BISMARCK STUDENTS!

- Grades 4-5: Write about a person or idea that fosters respect for Human Rights

- Grades 6-8: Write about your concept of leadership for Human Rights

CHOOSE TO WRITE AN ESSAY OR A POEM ON HUMAN RIGHTS!

All entries must be postmarked or e-mailed and received by the Human Relations Committee by 5:00 p.m. January 11, 2016. Please limit entries to one page.

Two outstanding entries from each age level will be selected. One essay and one poem from each.

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC) sponsors this contest to heighten awareness of human rights among students. The mission of the Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and to eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential.

Outstanding entries will be recognized at a ceremony during the month of January 2016 where Bismarck Mayor Mike Seminary will present the selected entrants with a special award. The selected essay or poem will be displayed on the Human Relations committee web page.*

www.bismarcknd.gov

*All submitted items and content become the property of the City of Bismarck and may be used for the non-commercial purpose of illustration, display or publication.

Submit entries to:
City of Bismarck
Human Relations Committee
221 N. 5th St.
Bismarck, ND
58506-5503
E-mail:
gdavid@bismarcknd.gov



Students are encouraged to visit the United Nations website to learn more about the "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>



Essay Contest Award Recipients 2016 from left: Ryan Zhang, Haiden Pederson, and Rylie Fode. HRC members: Will Kincaid, Karel Sovak, Mayor Mike Seminary, Susan Sisk and Rissa Williams.



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 12, 2016

Bismarck Human Relations Committee Announces 2016 Humanitarian Award Recipient

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Bismarck Human Relations Committee has selected Christina Sambor as the recipient of the 2016 Humanitarian Award. Each year the Bismarck Human Relations Committee Humanitarian Award honors an individual, business or organization that has exhibited leadership in the areas of human and civil rights with a focus upon recognizing those that educate, identify and address human rights issues.

Christina was nominated and selected for being a driving force behind changes to the North Dakota Century Code in the last legislative session that made drastic and needed changes to how North Dakota law enforcement and corrections interact with children who are being sold for sex and adults who are being forced into sexual activity, and for going above and beyond as an advocate for victims. Christina was selected from a pool of three worthy candidates and was nominated by three individuals: Jason Nisbet, Chris Rausch and Nick Keaveny.

Chris Rausch submitted that he is in awe of her work, drive and the unwavering strength of her convictions. Christina has long been a champion of human rights, and seeing a desperate need in our State, met the challenge of human trafficking head on, starting FUSE - a non-profit focused on the issue - and serving as Director for the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force. "Through these roles, Christina lobbies tirelessly for more effective and strict legislation, and is a passionate advocate for victims." Jason Nisbet nominated her because of her efforts to promote human and civil rights, particularly for the work that she's done as Chair of the ND Human Trafficking Task Force.

Mayor Seminary, City Commissioners and members of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee congratulated Christina for her tireless efforts to promote human and civil rights and for the work she's done as Chair of the ND Human Trafficking Task Force and F.U.S.E. "You make our community and state a better place in which to live because of what you do to educate, address human trafficking and advocate for victim services," said Mayor Seminary.

The North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force (NDHTTF) is a federally funded partnership between the US Attorney's Office of North Dakota, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and CAWS North Dakota, the statewide domestic violence/sexual assault coalition. NDHTTF funds and coordinates proactive law enforcement investigations of sex and labor trafficking, and the provision of victim centered, trauma-informed care for survivors of human trafficking.

FUSE (Force to End Human Sexual Exploitation) is a statewide anti-trafficking coalition in North Dakota serves as a space for advocates, direct service providers, law enforcement, and allied partners who are seeking to develop and implement a coordinated, comprehensive response to the sex trafficking crisis in North Dakota.

The mission of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to protect and promote the personal dignity of all Bismarck citizens and eliminate any discriminatory barriers that prevent them from reaching their full human potential. For more information please visit www.bismarcknd.gov.

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2015 Humanitarian Award Recipient Judith Roberts, Hope Manor, Hope Manor II, Mayor Mike Seminary.



2016 Humanitarian Award Recipient Christina Sambor with Bismarck City Commission members from left: Shawn Oban, Nancy Guy, Christina Sambor, Mayor Mike Seminary, Josh Askvig and Steve Marquardt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations

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