

Bismarck

Mayor's Committee on Human Relations

Annual Report

2016-2017



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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
Will Kincaid
Rissa Williams
Amy Ingersoll-Johnson
Krista Rausch
Barnie Botone
Shae Helling

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE Oct. 2016-2017

Diversity University is now a quarterly event in order to focus on identifying and promoting each event more fully.

The fourth quarter Diversity University event of 2016 was "An Evening in India." Former Human Relations Committee member, Aruna Seth, designed a meal that was prepared by Legacy High School Culinary students and was served at the school in November.

The first quarter Diversity University event for 2017 was held in February in honor of Black History Month. The Human Relations Committee partnered with the ND Heritage Center to show the movie "The Butler". The film was open to the public and shown at the museum on Sunday February 18 at 2 pm. Fifty-five people were in attendance

The Second Quarter Diversity University event for 2017 was Band Night Parade. Several Human Relations Committee members and other interested parties marched in the annual parade. A Human Relations Committee banner and t-shirts were purchased for the event. The Committee received great public exposure from the event.

The Third Quarter Diversity University event for 2107 was the Multicultural Festival at Gateway Fashion Mall on Sunday June 18th. Over 500 people attended the annual cultural celebration event that featured food, music, crafts, dancing and community spirit. Bismarck Police Chief Dan Donlin and former Human Relations Committee Member, Officer Clint Fuller, attended the event and interacted with the public.

The Fourth Quarter Diversity University event is planned as a cultural meal that will be organized and prepared by community members and culinary students. The event is preliminarily scheduled for early November 2017.

The Human Rights Poetry/Essay Contest Award was given to Horizon Middle School Student Riley Fode during the May 2017 meeting. Mayor Mike Seminary presented the award. Riley's poem is titled "The Drought" and she read it to the committee. Riley's family was in attendance.

The annual Human Relations Committee Humanitarian Award was given to Lynnette Horn, Director for the Community Based Services for Anne Carlson. Lynnette and her family received the award from Mayor Mike Seminary at the July 2017 Human Relations Committee meeting.

Several Human Relations Committee Members participated in Community Conversations, a three-part event designed to foster community relations and involvement, held throughout the months of March and early April 2017.

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 Events 2016-2017

“An Evening in India”

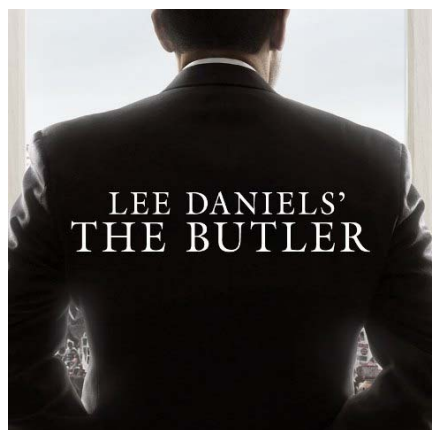
November 10, 2016



Black History Month 2017

“A Season for Nonviolence” Proclamation Mar. 22 – Apr. 4, 2017

The proclamation encouraged citizens to participate in local, national, and global education and community action campaigns to honor those who are using nonviolence to build communities that respect the dignity and worth of every human being. In support of these actions and in recognition of Black History Month the Human Relations committee co-hosted the “The Butler,” a movie event that was open to the community.



Diversity University Events 2016-2017

Band Night Parade May 2017

Human Relations Committee Banner carried by members marching in the parade.

Bismarck Human Relations Committee



www.bismarcknd.gov/humanrelationscommittee

Bismarck

Multicultural Festival June 2017



Diversity University Events 2016-2017

Human Rights Poetry Contest Award

Riley Fode, Award Recipient 2017

Grade 8, Horizon Middle School

“The Drought”

Once upon a day anew, deep gray concealing the sky’s blue hue,
A wilting, withering flower climbed out of the hardened dirt.
Its arid petals crumbling, drifting downward as if stumbling.
The clouds pitied the thirsty flower trapped below in the dirt,
Yet the clouds held in their many drops, restrained, did not divert,
‘Till the flower turned to dirt.

The clouds drifted as if being beckoned, gaining drops each second.
They soon spotted a frail birch tree, webs of leaves around it in a skirt,
Its pale white branches stiff and weak; its roots dry; its future bleak.
Its trunk cracking, a piercing shriek, collapsing into the dirt.
The darkened clouds, still withholding, watched the tree in its hurt,
‘Till it too turned to dirt.

The clouds continued on their way, those they passed fading more each day,
Those so in need of the rain the drenched clouds refused to desert,
Those whom one drop could save, those deprived of what they should have been gave,
Those trapped in a hardened grave, in a world of hatred and hurt.
A world which would be softened if only a few drops would hit the dirt.
‘Till then there will be only dirt.

‘Till one cloud uses what it withholds, ‘till one cloud makes a better future unfold,
‘Till one cloud helps those crumbling in the hardened world below,
‘Till one cloud shares its rain and inspires others to do the same.
Only then will they no longer hurt, only then will the world not be cold, dry dirt.

Diversity University Events 2016-2017

Humanitarian Award 2017

Lynnette Horn, Award Recipient

Director of Community Based Services at Anne Carlsen Center

Mayor Mike Seminary and Lynnette Horn



Bismarck Human Relations Committee left to right: Rissa Williams, Will Kincaid, Mayor Mike Seminary, Lynnette Horn, Award Recipient, Shae Helling, Karel Sovak, Amy Ingersoll-Johnson.