



Mayor's Committee on Human Relations Annual Report



**November 2017 to
December 2018**

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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 - Krista Rausch (term expires Jan. 2019)
- Vice Chair - Shae Helling (term expires Jan. 2020)
- Barnie Botone (resigned Nov. 2018)
- Karen Clayton (resigned Dec. 2018)
- Amy Ingersoll-Johnson (term expires Jan. 2019)
- Barb Strikes the Enemy (resigned Nov. 2018)
- Sr. Hannah Vanorny (term expires Jan. 2021)
- Rissa Williams (resigned Nov. 2018)
- LaVonne Wohl (resigned Dec. 2018)

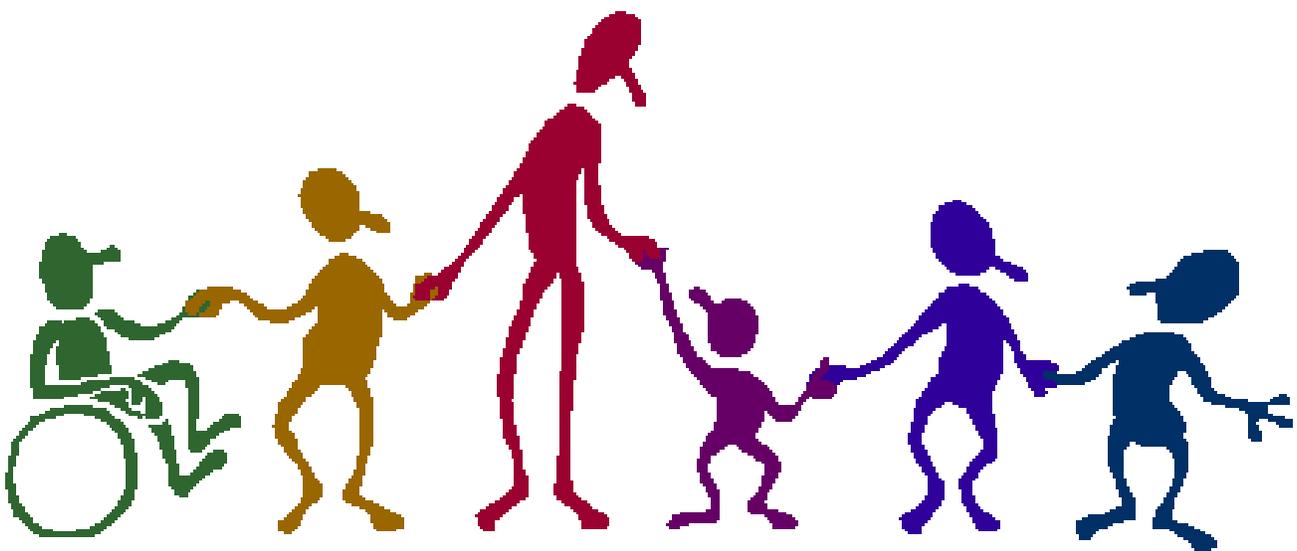
PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION

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



AN EVENING IN LIBERIA

—November 16, 2017 at Legacy High School, 6:30-8:30 pm, tickets were \$20—

This meal, sponsored by the Human Relations Committee in collaboration with Legacy High School, was the fourth quarter Diversity University event of 2017. Paul Zondo, founder and director of African Immigrant Services (AIMS) in Bismarck, and other Liberian community members taught students from the Legacy High School Culinary Arts program about Liberian culture and how to prepare an authentic Liberian meal.

The menu included a one-dish main course consisting of cassava, country chop (a mixture of organic chicken, fish, potatoes and greens cooked in palm oil) served with palava sauce, parboiled rice, and a plantain dessert.



Liberian community members get ready to eat their meal



Mayor Mike Seminary, Committee members, Legacy Culinary Arts students, and Liberian community members



Paul Zondo describes the food that is being served

WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

—March 3, 2018 at the North Dakota Heritage Center, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, a free event—

This event was the first quarter Diversity University event of 2018. For this presentation, the Human Relations Committee partnered with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and Humanities North Dakota to present a program called: "What is Community?"



Humanities Scholar Dr. Brian Palacek led a discussion with audience members about what community means to them and why it matters. This program provided an opportunity for all participants to consider community both in a personal and in a broader, more holistic sense. Representatives from ten agencies spoke about their organizations and community involvement.

About 100 people attended.



From left to right: Host Brian Palecek, Jeannie Messall (Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People); Cheryl Kary (Sacred Pipe Resource Center); Paul Zondo (African Immigrant Services); Julie Mehlhoff (Pride Manchester House); Mark Heinert (Youthworks); Lorraine Davis (Native American Development Center); Sr. Kathleen Atkinson (Ministry on the Margins); Leah Hargrove (Global Neighbors); Carrie Grosz (Carrie's Kids); Erin Pringle (Dakota OutRight)

HUMAN RIGHTS POETRY/ESSAY CONTEST: 4TH-5TH GRADE AND 6TH-8TH GRADE

—March 2018—

In March, the Human Relations Committee bestowed awards on two students who submitted entries to the Human Rights Poetry/Essay Contest. Awards were presented to the students in the presence of their parents, guests, classmates, teachers, and Committee members. Mayor Mike Seminary congratulated and recognized the students for their outstanding achievements. The winners were: Camila Morales, a fifth grade student at Miller Elementary School for her essay titled “Human Rights” and Julianne Cervantes, a sixth grade student at Horizon Middle School for her essay titled “Leadership in Human Rights: A Right Delayed is a Right Denied.” After the award presentations the recipients celebrated their achievements with pizza parties.



Winner Camila Morales with classmates, Mayor Seminary, and Committee members

Committee members Shae Helling and Bernie Botone, Mayor Seminary, and winner Camila with family members

Camila's Winning Essay

Human Rights

What do you know about human rights?

We are all born free and equal.

We don't deserve discrimination.

If you are being discriminated, you are free to move.

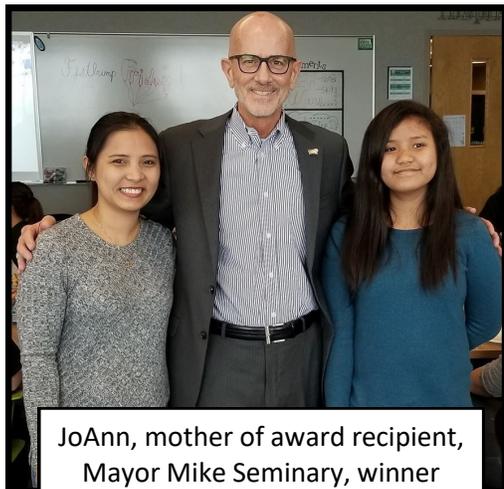
And no one can stop you from moving somewhere else.

C. Morales, Miller Elementary, Gr. 5



HUMAN RIGHTS POETRY/ESSAY CONTEST: 4TH-5TH GRADE AND 6TH-8TH GRADE (CONTINUED)

—March 2018—



JoAnn, mother of award recipient,
Mayor Mike Seminary, winner
Julianne Cervantes



Mayor
Seminary,
Julianne, and
Committee
Chair Krista
Rausch

The Winning Essay

Leadership in Human Rights

"A right delayed is a right denied" - Martin Luther King

A while ago, I asked classmates and peers, what their thoughts were on leadership for human rights. While I was doing this, I learned that human rights is not easy to explain. Most of the answers were "FREEDOM". I know it is a very strong word, but I needed more answers. So, I started asking my peers. Their answers were what I needed, but this was about middle school kids, so I needed answers from middle school people. I learned that middle school kids didn't really know about this. That is why I think kids of all ages need to be taught about their rights.

That was my classmate's thoughts so, what about mine. My perception for leadership in human rights is someone who fights for human rights. Being a leader for human rights means you are willing to risk your life for your and other people's rights. As a middle schooler, you don't really know what your rights are, but you take advantage of it without even knowing you have these rights. The only right I know as middle school student, is to go to school and graduate. When I did some research about rights for middle school students. I learned that not all the kids in other countries had an education. Which brings me to my experiences in my rights as an immigrant. As an immigrant, we had differences in school in my old country than this country. Unlike the U.S., not everyone had an education. As a person that came from another country, it's normal for people to treat you differently but, because of one law in human rights it helps me live normally.

While I was researching about human rights for people in other countries, I stumbled upon the Dreamers act. D.A.C.A or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This is the law that protects children that were born in the USA that are not American but, there is a fee. When I saw this I felt curious but, I also learned that it was being taken away. Dreamers were made up of millions of people and children. Though, the thought of paying to stay in the U.S seems inhumane a lot of them approve of this. When this is taken away millions of people will get deported so, less people will live in the US. Well, now you're questioning how does this involve human rights? It involves human rights by people losing their rights to live in their country that they live in. I hope this doesn't get taken away.

I have learned a lot about people's perspective of human rights. But I also learned about people's struggles. I have never thought about rights in general until, I wrote this essay. That is why I hope you could learn about something here. It is up to each of us to learn about human rights so we can continue to teach others and help make the world a better place that respects ALL people.

MULTICULTURAL MARKET

—April 19, 2018 at Centennial Elementary School, 6:15-8:00 pm, a free event—

Wendy Sanderson, coordinator of the Bismarck Public School District's English learner program, helped plan this event, which was held to spread awareness of the growing diversity in Bismarck. Other sponsors were BECEP and Indian Education Programs. The Human Relations Committee had a booth at this event, where members handed out brochures and displayed their banner.

Bismarck Public Schools
English Learner, BECEP, and Indian Education Programs present:



MULTICULTURAL MARKET

Thursday, April 19th 6:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Centennial Elementary School 2800 Ithica Drive, Bismarck

The MCM Is Your Passport to Fun and Learning!

Community Members Can:	Vendors and Artisans Can:
Meet Your New Neighbors!	Sell Unique Multicultural Products!
Play Native American Hand Games!	Display Your Arts and Crafts!
Enjoy Entertainment by the Fil-Am Dancers!	Share Traditional Music and Dance!
Learn About Other Cultures and Countries!	Teach Others About Your Culture!
Access Resources That Can Help Your Family!	Serve Up Samples of Your Products!

To request a table or an interpreter,
call Wendy (701-323-4143) or Mary (701-323-4400 ext. 3315).



Committee member Rissa Williams with students from Wachter Middle School (top) and with a Multicultural Market participant (right)



COMMITTEE ACCEPTS THANK YOU AWARD

—April 25, 2018, City Commission Meeting, City/County Building, 5:15 pm—

Paul Zondo, a member of the African Liberian community and founder and director of African Immigrant Services (AIMS) in Bismarck, presented a thank you award to Mayor Mike Seminary, the City Commission, and the Bismarck Human Relations Committee in recognition of their outreach efforts to African immigrants and refugees, and their intentional efforts to reach out to those in the community whose voices are often unheard. Many thanks to Paul and the African immigrant community of Bismarck!

From left to right: Mayor Seminary, Paul Zondo, Commissioner Shawn Oban, Bernie Botone, Hannah Vanorny, Shae Helling, Amy Ingersoll-Johnson, Commissioner Nancy Guy, Rissa Williams, Commissioner Steve Marquardt, Krista Rausch



The Award



BAND NIGHT PARADE

—May 11, 2018 in Bismarck (started and ended in the State Capitol area), 6:30 pm—

Four Human Relations Committee members marched in this annual parade carrying the Committee banner and wearing their matching t-shirts. The Committee receives great public exposure with its participation in this event.



From left to right:
Committee members: Amy Ingersoll-Johnson, Rissa Williams, Hannah Vanorny, and LaVonne Wohl

CAPITAL PRIDE 2018

—June 16, 2018 at Custer Park, 10 am-6 pm—

The Human Relations Committee had a booth at Pride in the Park, part of Capital Pride 2018, a week of events sponsored by Dakota OutRight. Committee members talked with numerous people about what the Human Relations Committee is and what it does in the community, while handing out brochures and homemade leis. The Committee banner was displayed along with pictures from different Human Relations Committee events.



The Booth



Karen Clayton and Krista Rausch



From left to right:
Committee members Karen Clayton, Krista Rausch, Rissa Williams



HUMANITARIAN AWARDS PRESENTED

—June 26, 2018 at the City/County Building, 5:15 pm—

Each year, the Human Relations Committee accepts nominations for an individual, business, or non-profit organization that has exhibited leadership in the area of human rights with a focus upon recognizing persons in the community that educate, identify, protect and promote personal dignity and eliminate discriminatory barriers that prevent people from reaching their full human potential. In 2018, the Committee chose two winners; they were introduced by Committee Chair Krista Rausch at a June City Commission meeting. The winners were Leah Hargrove, founder of Bismarck Global Neighbors and Mark Meier, founder of Heaven's Helpers Soup Café.



From left to right:
LaVonne Wohl,
Hannah Vanorny,
Leah Hargrove,
Amy Ingersoll-
Johnson, Mark
Meier, Rissa
Williams, and
Krista Rausch

AN EVENING IN THE PHILIPPINES

—November 1, 2018 at Legacy High School, 6:00-8:00 pm—

This meal was the fourth quarter Diversity University event of 2018. The Human Relations Committee sponsored this event in collaboration with the Legacy High School Culinary Arts Program. The Culinary II students, along with their teacher, Kim Hertz, met with a local group of Filipinos before the event to learn how to cook an authentic Filipino meal. The class then cooked and served the entire meal for the event itself. A group of Filipino dancers entertained the crowd during the dinner.



Mayor Steve
Bakken and
his wife
Wendy at
the dinner

Filipino community
members, Legacy
Culinary students,
teacher Kim Hertz,
and Committee member
and event organizer
Krista Rausch



Filipino
dancers



Some of the
tasty food!