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## About our HRC



- Established by city ordinance passed May 24, 2004
  - Updated in April 2009 and in 2013
- Intended to represent the "broad spectrum of the citizens of the city"
- Nine commissioners
  - City Council Rep
  - Assigned administrative staff and City staff liaison
- Annual budget (\$7,500)

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## Purpose and Duties



- Administer rules of city and state
- Assess community needs and make recommendations to city council
- Cooperate with other groups
- Forward all complaints to the State - not an investigative body
- Conduct public information meetings
- Collect data and evaluate low income & minority conditions
- Can seek outside funding
  - Primarily partner with other groups/commissions to support mutual activities

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## HRC Activities



- Work Plan
- Work Groups
- Juneteenth
- Pride Day (support)
- Indigenous People's Day (est 2014)
- Partner with ISD 318 - Human Rights Awareness Day

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The City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission made 10 presentations about the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights in March 2023 to approximately 250 students 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Some students provided responses that were summarized:

- "I knew about the freedom of life, speech, and the 'basic' rights. I was shocked at how in depth some rights go."*
- "I knew a good chunk of the rights because a lot is in the news..."*
- "I knew about rights like access to education and right to equality. I was surprised that there is a right to rest and leisure."*

Nearly all students shared that they did not think everyone in the US nor in the World can exercise or has access to all the rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- "I don't think a lot of people fully enjoy complete rights because a lot of stuff probably goes under their noses."*
- "I don't think people all have the same rights. Some people don't have the right to education."*

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