

Subject: Resolution for Strengthening Collaboration and Empowering the Juneau Human Rights Commission in the City and Borough of Juneau

Dear Members of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly,

WHEREAS, the Juneau Human Rights Commission is dedicated to advancing and defending human rights within our community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has identified challenges that hinder its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission, including difficulties recruiting and retaining members who attend consistently and contribute substantively, a lack of an effective web presence, and the need for a reliable document repository; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of mutual communication, the Commission seeks to establish a reciprocal relationship with the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly;

WHEREAS, Angie Flick, Finance Director for the City and Borough of Juneau, wrote a letter to the Assembly Finance Committee on November 21, 2023 noting that "inflation continues to be a headline topic" and that "inflation and the ability to recruit and retain employees remain a high focus" for the City and Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Juneau Human Rights Commission hereby brings to the attention of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly the following concerns and respectfully requests that the Assembly take necessary actions to support the Commission in addressing these impediments:

1. Trouble Recruiting and Retaining Members:

- a. The Commission acknowledges the challenge of recruiting and retaining members who attend consistently and contribute substantively to its work.
- b. The Assembly is requested to consider including the Juneau Human Rights Commission among those where members receive a stipend to defray costs associated with participation, particularly given the impact of inflation, thereby fostering greater participation and inclusivity among individuals of limited means.

2. Lack of Effective Web Presence and Document Repository:

- a. The Commission emphasizes the critical need for a transparent and accessible web presence.
- b. The Assembly is urged to allocate resources for the timely update of the Commission's website, ensuring the inclusion of all committee documents, such as resolutions, attachments, and a comprehensive history of meeting minutes.
- c. The Assembly is further requested to collaborate with the Commission to establish a reliable document repository that can withstand turnover among secretaries or members, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of Commission documents.

3. Reciprocal Communication Relationship:

- a. The Commission values open and reciprocal communication with the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly.

b. The Assembly is invited to engage in a proactive and regular communication relationship with the Commission, including scheduled meetings or updates to ensure effective collaboration and information sharing.

4. Recommendation to Consider Expanding Stipends:

a. The Commission recommends that the Assembly consider expanding the stipend model to other boards and commissions that have a human rights concern as part of their mission and that have experienced consistent vacancies, particularly in light of the economic impact of inflation, thereby enhancing the diversity and effectiveness of these entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Juneau Human Rights Commission looks forward to working collaboratively with the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly to implement these measures, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission in fulfilling its vital role within the community.

This resolution is effective upon adoption.

Sincerely,