

Juneau Human Rights Commission (JHRC)
July 2023 – June 2024
DRAFT Annual Report

I. Overall

A. Commission Membership:

1. JHRC welcomed John Drips to the Commission for one vacant position.
2. The Commission has two seats expiring on May 31, 2024. One current member has re-applied for appointment.

B. Commission Meetings:

1. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, for a total of twenty meeting annually, 5:00-6:00 pm. via Zoom.
2. In 2024, JHRC met thirteen times, did not meet seven, due to lack of quorum, and cancelled one meeting.

II. Charge: Develop educational and informational programs designed to bring about the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination.

Charge: Examine sources of tension, practices of discrimination, hate crimes, and acts of prejudice in the City and Borough of Juneau.

A. Community Engagement Project: (Note: This project addresses all five areas charged to the Commission.) The Community Engagement Project is designed to identify social issues in Juneau and develop solution recommendations. The Commission has developed a plan to be proposed to the Assembly for funding consideration.

III. Charge: Promote harmonious intergroup relations within CBJ by making connections and enlisting the cooperation of racial, religious and nationality groups, business, community, labor and governmental organizations, fraternal and benevolent associations, education and other groups concerned with human rights.

2023-24 JHRC Annual Events:

- A. Town Halls to engage the community in issue-focused dialogue. Our 2023-24, town hall meeting, ***Creating Greater Gender Inclusion in the Juneau Community***, was presented by former JHRC member and award-winning author and advocate Mr. Aidan Key whose carrier as speaker, author and educator in the field of gender-related issues spans over 25 years. The event was held at the Juneau Public Library with in-person and online options.
- B. Celebrating Black History Month 2024: JHRC participated with a booth included sharing materials regarding the Commission's work and Charge in the ***9th Alaska Black Business Expo & Summit***, organized and facilitated by the Alaska Black Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Juneau Black Awareness Association. The February 3rd, Summit launched a weekend celebrating Black History Month featuring business development and generational wealth building strategies. The event included speakers-experts in the subject and presentations by business owners of color that shared their stories of successes, challenges and available opportunities they accessed while building their businesses in Juneau.

- C. Celebrating Alaska Native Heritage Month: JHRC will support and participate in the annual events according to the mission, goals and structures of the event's planning committee.
 - D. Strategic Plan 2024-25: JHRC held an in-person facilitated work-session on Saturday, January 27th, at the Juneau Public Library focused on creating the JHRC Strategic Plan 2024-25. The work-session completed with a continuum mapping including strategies, metrics, timeline and member/s responsible for each focus area.
 - E. Alaska State Commission on Human Rights: JHRC member/s and Chair, attended the Alaska State Commission on Human Rights work session held in Juneau on June 7th, including staffing a booth at the Sealaska Celebration handing out promotional items and educational information.
- IV. Charge: Advise the Assembly concerning solutions to specific problems of prejudice and discrimination, including hate crimes.
- V. Charge: Recommend to the Assembly action, policies and legislation to be considered by state and local governments.
- A. Human Rights Campaign's Municipality Equality Index: JHRC drafted a resolution in response to the Human Resources Committee on the *Municipality Equality Index*, making recommendations to the Assembly on actions with the potential to improve in the areas where full points were not awarded. The Draft Resolution was presented to the Human Resources Committee on July 10, 2023 and forwarded to the Law Department for review. Municipality Equality Index focuses on equality towards LGBTQ individuals.