

Fort Collins Human Relations Commission 2016/2017 Work Plan

*The Human Relations Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council and serves community members of the City of Fort Collins. The HRC discourages all forms of discrimination and promotes acceptance and respect for diversity through education, programs and activities.
HRC Mission Statement*

For 2016/2017, the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission continues with a broad plan for supporting human relations and social sustainability issues that are pertinent to the City of Fort Collins consistent with aligning their focus on City Outcomes such as Community and Neighborhood Livability and Safe Community. Responsibilities are divided among HRC's four standing committees, but are not exclusive to any of the four committees. Our Commission has pledged to become informed about human relations issues and events within Fort Collins and recommend appropriate action to City Council.

Below are HRC's goals followed by a brief synopsis of HRC's Standing Committee structure, functions and ongoing responsibilities.

GOALS

HRC has established the following goals for 2016/2017.

1. The 2016/2017 work plan continues to align its goals with City Outcome Areas with emphasis on Community and Neighborhood Livability, Safe Community and High Performing Government.
2. The HRC will continue to recognize members of the community at an annual HRC Awards event in collaboration with the Senior Advisory Board.
3. The HRC will initiate a series of educational programs on the topic of 'Diversity' using the forum model that has been successful the last two years during the series of Mental Health forums. Recognizing the challenges youth face regarding diversity issues, a major objective will be to integrate youth in the planning and participation of all forums.
4. The HRC will closely observe City Council's work plan calendar to monitor issues that may align with HRC's role as an advisory resource for City Council on issues concerning equity and social justice.

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall...

- Determine meeting agendas for monthly HRC meetings and special meetings.
- Maintain regular communication with HRC's City Council Liaison and City Council.
- Delegate issues for resolution to standing or to special committees.
- Provide support to HRC standing committees as needed.
- Call special meetings when resolution of urgent issues is needed.

The GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE shall...

- Act as primary point of contact for the Citizen Liaison Program which assists citizens in filing complaints with Fort Collins Police Services. Coordinate with Police Services to train people in the Citizen Liaison Program and to allow effective utilization of the program within the complaint process.
- Keep a calendar of City Council meetings and solicit HRC members to monitor City Council agendas and attend or view meetings as appropriate; develop protocol for attendance at City Council meetings; specifically monitoring the Public Input period at the beginning of Council sessions. Address City Council as needed and report back to the HRC.
- Attend Citizen Review Board meetings and provide assistance upon its request.
- Help to educate citizens and recommend actions which promote positive relations among community members, Fort Collins Police Services and the Citizen Review Board.
- Review proposed legislation, policy changes or other governmental action at the federal, state or local level which may affect human rights and civil liberties in the City in order to make recommendations regarding the same, as appropriate.
- Research and recommend actions necessary to achieve: equal employment opportunities; equal housing opportunities; equal public accommodation opportunities and the best possible Fort Collins government/community relations in all fields of government.

The MEDIA/COMMUNITY RECOGNITION COMMITTEE shall...

- Foster cooperative relations with media to increase visibility of HRC's work.
- Draft necessary articles or communication pieces to support the work of the HRC.
- Plan, coordinate and execute an annual HRC awards event.
- Maintain the HRC website and brochure by working with the City staff.

The EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE shall...

- Create a better understanding of community inclusivity through educational programs and/or events relating to cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, age, disability and/or other diversity issues.
- Keep the Commission current on topics involving diversity and equality and advise Council on matters where action may need to be taken.
- Increase our collaboration with new and existing committees and organizations in Fort Collins as well as pursue opportunities to coordinate and collaborate with City Boards and Commissions that have similar functions.
- Partner with other organizations to assist in outreach programming and direct responsiveness to queries and situations.

Respectfully submitted November 20, 2015