

Juneau Human Rights Commission (JHRC)
June 2020 – June 2021 Annual Report

I. Overall

- A. In its Advisory role to the Assembly and in response to national and local events surrounding the death of George Floyd Anti-Racism demonstrations of June 2020, the JHRC drafted and submitted to the Assembly a call for action through *Resolution No. 2899: A Resolution Recognizing and Embracing the Diversity and Cultural Values of Our Community and Holding it Accountable*. The resolution was adopted by the Assembly on Sept. 21, 2020.
- B. JHRC welcomed Angel Collins and Kalino Iha. Due to time constraints, Kalino Iha resigned and the Commission welcomed Mary Wegner.
- C. JHRC, advised by the Human Resource Committee (HRC), explored potentially increasing the Commission's membership by two to a total of seven members. The HRC and JHRC supported and welcomed the increase.
- D. Formulate community informed Advisory focused work in the 2021-22 JHRC blueprint for action.

II. Developing Educational Informational Programs

- A. JHRC and Senator Kiehl, invited as the Commission's plenary addressee, conducted a virtual live session on November 10th, as part of the 6th Annual *2020 UAS Power & Privilege Symposium*, sponsored by UAS
- B. Britta Tonnessen, Ibn Bailey, and Angel Collins virtually presented to students in Yaakoosgé Daakahídi Alternative High School on the *Importance of Human Rights* and why it is critically important to uphold in Alaska.
- C. Inspired by a community member's outreach seeking advice and potential resolution, the JHRC initiated planning to develop a responsive system based on connecting needs-to-community resources and expertise. JHRC identified local groups and agencies to present during scheduled meetings on their services to assure that families and individuals, especially youth experiencing unequitable and/or discriminatory treatment, can connect with relevant services and community resources for support in situations of perceived discriminatory treatment.

III. Promote Harmonious Relationships

- A. In recognition of International Women's Day, Presentations by ANS Grand President Paulette Moreno & ANB Grand Secretary Tamzyn Al-Zyout
- B. Robert Corbisier, Executive Director of the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights
- C. Perseverance Theatre - Artistic Director Leslie Ishii - Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- D. Juneau Human Rights Commission Co-Sponsored training with the Systemic Racism

Review Committee Anti-Racism on June 19, 2021 from 9am - 2pm.

- E. Justin Pelkowski (ORCA), Deb Etheridge (SAIL), Leone Marx (SAIL), Tristan Knutson Lombardo (SAIL) - Southeast Alaska Independent Living Resource
- F. A Group of Concerned Citizens - attended the Juneau Human Right Commission meeting where they spoke of meeting with Chief Mercer in regards to concerns on policy and procedures in the police department. October 22, 2020. We met with them and supported their request for a meeting.

IV. Advise the Assembly concerning solutions to specific problems of prejudice and discrimination

- A. Resolution No. 2899: A Resolution Recognizing and Embracing the Diversity and Cultural Values of Our Community and Holding it Accountable

V. What the Commission plans to do in the future:

- A. Establish systems for prompt systematic response to address critical on-time issues:
 - structure accessing specific Commission members and/or via sub-committees to discuss, plan for action on issues promptly within a brief timespan
- B. Continue our work in promoting, education, and developing public discourse:
 - Human Rights Awareness Speakers Series -each session led by point Commission member-
 - Research and identify subject's related policies/ ordinances/ regulations, identify areas potentially deserving review, reflection, work etc., and advise the Assembly accordingly.
- C. Greater focus on the Commission's role in its advisory functions to support the Assembly:
 - Request to have an Assembly member as the Commission's liaison to participate in the Commission's scheduled meetings.