



**CITY OF ALBANY
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

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**KATHY M. SHEEHAN
MAYOR**

City of Albany Commission on Human Rights 2024 Annual Report

Pursuant to Albany City Code §42-367, the Commission shall file an annual report with the Common Council and the Mayor on or about January 31 summarizing its activities for the preceding year.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 2024: The Commission marched in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community March on Monday, January 15, 2024.

The Commission met on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at City Hall. Discussion focused on the creation of an informational brochure for public use, the 2023 Equity Agenda Report timeline, and the annual Human Rights Reception. The Commission reviewed and approved the Annual Report and Annual Complaints Report for submission to the Common Council.

February 2024: The Commission met on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at City Hall. Discussion focused on planning of the 2024 Human Rights Reception, upcoming events of interest and an update of the Commission's Bylaws and term expiration dates.

March 2024: The Commission met on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at City Hall. Members of the public commented regarding the City's response to the rights of counter protesters and policy intervention on January 6, 2021. The Commission discussed planning for the 2024 Human Rights Reception. The Commission finalized their informational brochure and clarified the

scope and responsibilities of the subcommittees. The Commission planned for attendance at Tulip Fest and other Spring events.

April 2024: The Commission met on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at City Hall. Discussion focused on finalization of the location and date for the 2024 Human Rights Reception, as well as a deadline for nominee submissions, the Commission's Bylaws draft edits, specifics of Tulip Fest tabling and future tabling opportunities at local events. The Commission established co-chairs for their subcommittees: Aaron Moore and Tom Mueller were elected as Co-Chairs of the Events subcommittee; Kimberly Young-Wilkins and Valerie Alexander were elected as Co-Chairs for the Investigations subcommittee; Rosie Love and Richard Conti were elected Co-Chairs of the Communications and Social Media subcommittee.

May 2024: The Commission tabled at Tulip Festival on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, 2024.

The Commission met on Monday, Monday, May 20, 2024, at City Hall. Tatiana Diaz, the City's Human Resources Director, and Ann Marie Salmon, Commissioner of Administrative Services gave a presentation regarding the City's recruitment and retention strategies. The Commission selected awardees for the 2024 Human Rights Reception. The Commission also discussed legislation amending term end dates so that all terms expire at the end of December each year. The Department of Administrative Services provided the Commissioners with a draft of the 2023 Equity Agenda report and the Commission discussed next steps for reviewing the report.

June 2024: The Commission's Annual Human Rights Reception was held on June 13, 2024 at the Hollow. Awards were presented to: Carrie "Love" Livingston, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Pride Center of the Capital Region, Siara Ramos, Susan DuBois, Louise McNeilly, and Eden's Rose Foundation.

The Commission met on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at City Hall. Monice Barbero and Gayle Hartz from The Legal Project gave a presentation regarding services their organization provides to the community. The Commission also engaged in a post-event recap of the Annual Reception and discussed upcoming events.

August 2024: The Commission tabled at the MHEP Block Party on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

The Commission held an annual planning session.

September 2024: The Commission tabled at Mississippi Day on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

The Commission met on Thursday, September 26, at City Hall. Discussion focused on the 2023 Equity Agenda Report and commissioners' insights and questions after reading the report. The Commission identified city departments it would like to hear from for background information regarding the Equity Agenda Report. The Commission decided to nominate officers in the October 2024 meeting, as the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions require a vote.

October 2024: The Commission met on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at City Hall. Discussion focused on the 2023 Equity Agenda Report. Commissioner Alexander requested a presentation from the City of Albany Department of Recreation at a future meeting. The following Commissioners were nominated for this election cycle: Commissioner Thomas Mueller for Chair; Commissioner Richard Conti for Vice Chair, and Commissioner Kathryn Shelly for Secretary.

November 2024: The Commission met on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at City Hall. The Following officers were elected: Thomas Mueller for Chair, Kimberly Young-Wilkins for Vice Chair (Richard Conti will be stepping down as of 1/1/25 for a role on the Common Council), and Kathryn Shelly for Secretary. There Commission heard presentations from the City of Albany's Department of Building and Regulatory Compliance and Department of Engineering. Also present to support the presentations were the Department of Neighborhood Services and Department of General Services. Commissioners had the opportunity to inquire with each department about their questions and concerns related to the 2023 Equity Agenda Report. The Commission discussed possible partnership with a university to analyze data for the 2025 Equity Agenda report.

Commissioner of Administrative Services Ann Marie Salmon updated the Commission on the outcome of a discussion with the New York State Division of Human Rights. She also briefed the Commission on their 2025 budget, which includes approximately \$7,500 increase in funds for contracted services and training.

December 2024: The Commission participated in tabling at the City of Albany Tree Lighting event on December 5, 2024 and Collective Souls Holding Space Toy Giveaway on December 13, 2024.

The Commission met on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at City Hall. Discussion focused on finalizing recommendations for the 2023 Equity Agenda Report and setting up meeting dates for 2025. The City of Albany Department of Recreation / Youth & Workforce Services gave a presentation outlining the department's mission and activities.

This meeting was Commissioner Conti's last meeting, as he was selected to represent Ward 6 beginning on January 1, 2025.

COMPLAINTS

Pursuant to Albany City Code §42-367, the Commission shall file a report summarizing complaints filed in accordance with Article III of Chapter 48 of the Albany City Code and the status thereof.

In 2024, the Commission received thirty-one (31) complaints, which are outlined in the biannual complaints report.

EQUITY AGENDA ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission submitted the annual Equity Agenda report to the Common Council on December 21, 2024.

Submitted: January 21, 2025