

Chelsea Human Rights Commission

2020 Annual Plan

The Chelsea Human Rights Commission (HRC) was established in 2017 subsequent to the adoption of the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance (Chelsea MI Code of Ordinances, Chapter 33). In its first year, the Commission focused on organizational issues, creating bylaws and developing its first annual plan. In year two, the Commission crafted and implemented a Community Survey to help guide its priorities. In 2019, Commission members presented the survey results to various community organizations, solicited feedback and suggestions for future activities, and invited several speakers to its meetings to gather information and establish connections with groups and governmental organizations concerned with Human Rights issues.

The HRC now proposes the following plan for its activities in the year 2020. The proposed activities are guided by the priorities identified in the Community Survey results: Community Diversity, Bullying, and Racism. Another finding of the survey was that many respondents identified Chelsea's positive community climate as one of its greatest assets. The Commission has developed the proposed activities to address the identified priorities while promoting a welcoming, inclusive community for all Chelsea residents and visitors.

Internal Activities

1. HRC members will participate in an introductory webinar offered by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of local and regional governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Washtenaw County is an active member of GARE.
2. HRC members will review City policies and ordinances, in order to "make periodic reports and recommendations to City Council and City Manager on ways to improve city government programs and ordinances designed to eliminate discrimination or to remove effects of past discrimination", as specified in the non-discrimination ordinance.

External Activities

1. Community events for international students at Chelsea High School.

This year there are 24 international students at CHS, many of whom are housed in Ann Arbor with little opportunity to engage with members of the Chelsea community. Likewise, most Chelsea residents lack opportunities to meet and talk with these young adults from other cultures. The HRC proposes to organize a reception for the students in the spring of 2020. This would be followed by a similar or related activity in the fall of 2020 to welcome new students.

Priorities: Community diversity, community climate

Timeline: May; August

Potential Partners: Chelsea Schools; Service Clubs; and/or other groups

2. HRC Discussion Groups

The HRC proposes to organize moderated discussion groups, focused on HRC priorities of bullying, racism, and community diversity, in the context of civil discourse. Discussion would be facilitated using selected materials to be identified (e.g. Teaching Tolerance).

Priorities: Bullying, racism, community diversity/climate

Timeline: June; September; November

Potential Partners: Chelsea District Library; Senior Center; and/or other groups

3. 2021 Martin Luther King Day Celebration

The HRC proposes to participate in planning a community-wide Martin Luther King Day celebration in 2021. This might include identifying speakers, organizing a gathering or march, or community recognition (e.g. signs, luminaries).

Priorities: Racism, community diversity

Timeline: January 2021

Potential Partners: One World One Family; Chelsea District Library; and/or other groups

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan Morrel-Samuels, HRC Chair

Dan Kaminsky, Vice Chair

Rod Anderson, Secretary

Joanne Ladio, Commissioner