



# Blue Springs, Missouri

## Human Relations Commission

2015



# Overview

The City of Blue Springs is a community that prides itself on its diversity and its responsiveness to all citizens. In order to enhance the ability to educate and also respond to concerns that may be expressed related to gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or disability, the City created the Blue Springs Human Relations Commission (HRC).



# History

- Mayor, Carson Ross, Chief of Police, Wayne McCoy, Lee's Summit former HRC Chair, Dr. Emanuel Ngomsi and the Blue Springs City Council drafted a charter for the HRC, and appointed seven members of the Blue Springs community to serve as the Human Relations Commission. Kynette Campbell is Chair of the Group, and Gino Bueno serves as Vice-Chair.
- Other members appointed to the HRC include: Jane Bowerman, Antoine Jennings, Susan Stokenbury, Diane Ellis-Jones and Lori Moon. The Commission is currently seeking a student representative from each of the Blue Springs High Schools to serve.
- Chief Wayne McCoy serves as the city's liaison to the HRC.



# Blue Springs, Missouri Human Relations Commission



Pictured L-R:) Chief Wayne McCoy, Antoine Jennings, Jane Bowerman, Chairman Kynette Campbell, Lori Moon, Former Student Representative Josie White, Vice-Chairman Gino Bueno. Not Pictured: Diane Ellis-Ross, Susan Stokenbury



# Community Survey

In the spring of 2014 a Community Survey was conducted via focus groups to identify strengths within the Blue Springs community, opportunities identified by Blue Springs citizens in which growth could be achieved, education provided for the HRC, and possible risks for addressing these issues.



# Training

Two Commissioners of the Blue Springs HRC attended the Human Relations Conference, held November 6, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Human Relations Conference will be held in Kansas City, MO in 2016, date to be determined.

Each Commissioner will receive mediation training from the Department of Justice in February 2016. The training will allow the HRC to facilitate and potentially resolve, disputes between residents as well as entities within Blue Springs.



# Strategic Planning

With the assistance of Dr. Emanuel Ngomsi, the chairman of the Lee's Summit Human Relations Commission, the members of the HRC, and the city's liaison, Chief Wayne McCoy, met for a strategic planning workday on Saturday, August 23, 2014, and developed the initial strategic plan for the Commission.



# Blue Springs HRC Vision

Promote mutual understanding and respect among all residents, seeking viable solutions of disputes between residents and their neighbors, local entities and agencies.

A decorative header graphic consisting of a solid blue bar at the top, with a white wavy line and a thin blue line below it, creating a sense of movement and depth.

# Blue Springs HRC Mission

The mission of the Blue Springs Human Relations Commission is to foster the improvement of human relations among and between citizens of all cultural backgrounds, so as to provide all individuals with an equitable opportunity to grow and participate to the best of their ability in our economic, educational, political, and social systems.



# Meetings

- Meetings of the Human Relations Commission are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Agendas are posted on the City of Blue Springs website prior to each meeting.



# Activities of the HRC

- Seek to solve diversity disputes involving Blue Springs citizens, if necessary, the HRC offers mediation.
- Referrals may be made to [HRC@bluespringsgov.com](mailto:HRC@bluespringsgov.com)
- Per the strategic plan, HRC members will pursue activities designed to promote diversity and inclusion within the Blue Springs community.
- Propose a budget for the new fiscal year, October 2016, this will enable the HRC to carry out its mission. When a HRC budget is implemented a Treasurer will be selected.
- Prior to receiving a budget in the next fiscal year, the HRC has submitted a draft budget to the city for approval. If approved, we can successfully make an impact in our community and provide necessary training for the Commission.



# 2015 HRC Accomplishments

- Helping Residents Connect Fair – The purpose of the event was to make Blue Springs residents aware of the HRC and the services we offer. Vesper Hall, October 4, 2015
- Marched in the Fall Fun Fest Parade to bring awareness to the HRC. September 19, 2015
- Interviewed by Pete Grigsby, (former meteorologist for KMBC 9 news) of Jag News, Blue Springs South High School to recruit two high school student representatives to serve on Commission.
- Meeting with Lee's Summit HRC to find out what they are doing in their community to promote diversity, challenges they face and to seek opportunities to work together in the future.
- Registered with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.



# 2016 HRC Action Plans

- Neighborhood Block Party, April 2016 & August 2016
- Booth at Fall Fun Fest
- Booth at Night Out Against Crime
- Presentation to City Council, Rotary Club & Public Safety Board
- Developing a relationship with school counselors and offer services of the HRC.
- Meet with Chair & Vice-Chair of local HRC's
- Collaborate with local HRC's to sponsor city-wide events
- Acquire a 501 c(3) if approved by the Mayor
- Visit local churches to bring awareness of the HRC and it's services
- Write newspaper articles for publication in The Examiner to keep public aware of events
- Improve visibility on social media outlets
- Create a You Tube video with police officers to inform residents how to respond when stopped by an officer



# Questions & Answers