



JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA

September 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/9221141227>

Meeting ID: 922 114 1227 | Passcode: 306447 Or Phone: 1-253-215-8782

MAY SWITCH BACK TO 9/17 IF UNABLE TO ESTABLISH QUORUM ON 9/16

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025-05-21 JHRC Minutes - Draft

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. JHRC Guests: Leslie Ishii & Kylie Ferguson from Perseverance Theatre

Welcome to Leslie Ishii and Kylie Ferguson from Perseverance Theatre, who have invited JHRC members to be panelists helping the audience unpack the Sunday, September 28th matinee performance of *What the Constitution Means to Me*.

3. Standing Agenda Topics

- FY25 Budget
 - Treasurer Report
 - Community Engagement Project

4. JHRC Annual Report — On the 9/22 Assembly HRC Agenda

5. JHRC Strategic Plan - Revised 5/2025

6. Joint JHRC & Systemic Racism Review Committee (SRRC) Meeting

7. Celebrating Black History Month 2026

G. NEXT MEETING DATE

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

I. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.

DRAFT MINUTES
JUNEAU HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MAY 21, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.
 1. Present: Haifa Foroughi, Lance Mitchell, and Mary Wegner
 2. Absent: Alison Gottschilich and Camille Mauch
 3. Support: N/A
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: We added *Summer Meeting Schedule* to the Agenda. The Agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Minutes of the May 6, 2025 Meeting: The Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NON-AGENDA ITEMS: No one from the public was present.
- V. AGENDA
 1. *Living in Marginalized Communities in 2025: A Panel Discussion*: The event was a success! We discussed the need to increase advertisement, such as the flyers need to have better distribution and Lance offered to facilitate this process. Also, we should add in a radio component to help get the word out. Kudos to Lance for identifying the panelists, the panelists themselves, and to Jennifer for her expert moderation. We discussed continuing to offer panels on the same topic, using the same name, poster design, and with the same panelists. In the future, we could start with an introductory overview from each of the panelists and then move into more of a work session with the panelists and participants in the hopes of identifying action items we can recommend to the Assembly. The Valley Library worked well, as did the snacks and water. Lance will download the video so it can be shared online.

The frame for our next panel will be to focus on the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Mary met with Leslie Ishii, whom we had invited to be a moderator, however, she was unavailable on the date of our panel discussion. During the meeting, Leslie proposed working with JHRC and other organizations in town

interested in supporting marginalized communities so we can engage in training to increase safety at our events. We discussed inviting Leslie to our June 18th meeting to discuss this further. Mary will extend the invitation.

a. Panelists:

- 1) Jennifer Skinner, Moderator
- 2) Emily Mesch, LGBTQ+
- 3) Dave Ringle, Unhoused Population
- 4) Jeni Brown, Murdered and Indigenous Women
- 5) Shannon McCain, Mental Health

2. Standing Agenda Topics:

a. FY25 Budget:

- 1) Treasurer Report: We were approved for \$150 for gifts and food for the event.
- 2) Community Engagement Project: Not discussed at this meeting.
3. Summer Meeting Schedule: We will not meet in July or August, and we will reconvene our regular meeting schedule on Wednesday, September 17th. The first meeting in June, June 3rd, is not calendared.
4. Revisit Strategic Plan 2024-2025: We reviewed the strategic plan and revised Charges 1, 2, and 3. We will continue with our update of the remaining Charges at another meeting.
5. Annual Report: Haifa will draft an Annual Report to be shared at our next meeting.
6. Joint JHRC and Systemic Racism and Review Committee (SRRC) Meeting: Haifa and Ephraim Froehlich, SRRC Chair, will meet this Friday.
7. Celebrating Black History Month 2026: Lance suggested that we wait until we come back in September to meet with Jasmine Smith regarding hosting a Black Business Expo in 2026.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public was present.

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a. Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom.
- b. Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom.
- c. Tuesday, October 7, 2025 from 5:00-6:00 pm via Zoom.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Juneau Human Rights Commission (JHRC)
July 2024 – June 2025
Annual Report

- Overall

A. Commission Membership:

1. Alison Gottschlich, Treasurer
2. Haifa Foroughi, Chair
3. Lance Mitchel
4. Mary Wegner, Vice Chair/ Secretary
5. Vacant Seat
6. Staff liaison support provided by CBJ Ms. Di Cathcart

B. Commission Meetings:

1. Meetings are held on first Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month, for a total of twenty meetings annually, 5:00-6:00 pm. via Zoom.
2. In 2024-25, JHRC met 14, times, did not meet quorum 4 times, and suspended one meeting due to potential online intrusion.

C. Activities & Accomplishments:

Community Engagement Projects: designed to identify social issues in Juneau and to develop solution recommendations guiding the 2024-25 JHRC annual events. (Note: These projects addresses all five areas charged to the Commission.)

1. Town Halls to engage the community in issue-focused dialogue.

JHRC 2024-25, town hall meeting: ***Living in Marginalized***

Communities in 2025: A Panel Discussion was held on May 10, in the Valley Library.

Moderator:

Jennifer Skinner, Deputy Director at Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Panel of speakers:

*Emily Mesch, president of Southeast Alaska LGBTQ+ Alliance

*Dave Ringle, General Manager at St. Vincent de Paul, coordinator of unhoused population.

*Glen Ojard, Rapid Housing

*Shannon McCain, Mental Health programs and access.

2. Celebrating Alaska Native Heritage Month: Celebrating Alaska Native Heritage Month/Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), addressed by presenter Natasha Jackson, Tlingit & Haida Community Advocate and JHRC team Lance/Paige heading this initiative. A public information request was submitted through the Alaska Department of Public safety for updated information on MMIW, and The Urban Indian Health institute who provided statistics reporting 506 cases nationwide of native women, more than 1,500 unsolved cases.

*JHRC Alison Gottschlich attended the MMIW event held in February. Note: Consistent theme throughout the many sessions was affordable housing and food access.

D. Policy Recommendations:

1*Submitted a recommendation to the CBJ Assembly on **reducing JHRC membership from seven to five members** to strengthen quorum consistency while maintaining the commission's established charge

2* Draft Resolution to: Increase community participation in CBJ Committees and Commissions (ready for submission)

3* JHRC and SSRC Chairs, initiated dialogue on combined trainings and collaboration opportunities to identify discriminatory foundational policies and regulations leading to solution recommendations.

*Charge: Promote harmonious intergroup relations within CBJ by making connections and enlisting the cooperation of racial, religious and nationality groups, business, community, labor and governmental organizations, fraternal and benevolent associations, education and other groups concerned with human rights.

*Juneau Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship Mr. Honesty Zahnd joined us to present information on their communities work, to identify areas of mutual focus and create partnership opportunities.

- Charge: Develop educational and informational programs designed to bring about the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination.

1* Strategic Plan 2023-28: JHRC 2024-25, goals are consistent with the strategies, metrics, timeline and member/s responsible for each focus area, and are guided by the implementation of the five year strategic plan.

2* Alaska State Commission for Human Rights in Juneau: JHRC members were invited to their June 7th meeting held at the Juneau Downtown Library. Haifa and Mary attended the meeting.

In conclusion, JHRC remains committed to advancing its charter, and despite the challenges, achieve meaningful progress, strengthening partnerships, amplifying underrepresented voices, and making thoughtful recommendations to CBJ leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Juneau Human Rights Commission
City and Borough of Juneau

Juneau Human Rights Commission – Strategic Plan 2024-2025

Assembly finds discrimination against an inhabitant of the municipality because of any characteristic unrelated to merit is a matter of public concern, threatening the peace, order, health, safety, and general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants.

Updated 5-21-25

Charge from the Assembly	Strategies and Actions	Metrics	Completion Date	Who is Responsible
1. Education & Public Discourse: Develop educational and informational programs designed to bring about the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination. 2. Examine sources of tension, practices of discrimination, hate crimes, and acts of prejudice in the city and borough of Juneau.	Host a series of <i>Living in Marginalized Communities in 2025: A Panel Discussion</i> .	Development of a Resolution(s) related to the discussions from the panels (e.g., unhoused population, mental health supports).		Alison, Haifa, and Mary
3. Promote harmonious intergroup relations within CBJ by making connections and enlisting the cooperation of racial, religious and nationality groups, business, community, labor and governmental organizations, fraternal and benevolent associations, education, and other groups concerned with human rights.	A. Collaborate with organizations to support cultural celebrations of significance in the community (e.g., Black History month, Celebration 2026). B. Extend invitations to local social and spiritual organizations to attend a JHRC meeting, and during <i>Public Participation for Non-Agenda Items</i> they can share about their work.	A. Successful collaboration with local organization(s). B. Individuals from 4 local social and spiritual organizations attend a JHRC meeting and share information about the work they do in Juneau.		A. Lance B.
4. Advise the Assembly concerning solutions to specific problems of prejudice or discrimination, including hate crimes. 5. Recommend to the Assembly action, policies, and legislation to be considered by state and local governments	Support and advocate for community human rights needs that arise by drafting memos, resolutions, and policy recommendations to the Assembly.	Number of memos, resolutions, and policy recommendations made to the Assembly.		
	Improve on-line presence focused on the website, as it needs to be more informative and factual. Continue to consider social media to increase visibility regarding our work.	Website is updated and Events portion has listed events from 2013-2020 where there is a current gap.		Mary website and Lance social media