

STAFF REPORT

Date: November 8, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Discussion and potential appointment of up to three individuals as Ward 4, Ward 5, and At-Large appointees to the Human Rights Commission from the following pool of applicants, listed in alphabetical order: Katie Colling, Dominique Labonte, Hagen Sandoval, and/or Debra Whitlock Lax.

From: Mikki Huntsman, City Clerk

Department: City Clerk

Summary:

There are currently three vacancies on the Human Rights Commission for a Ward 4, Ward 5, and At-Large appointees. Staff has received applications from Katie Colling, Dominique Labonte, Hagen Sandoval, and Debra Whitlock Lax.

The term for appointment will be for November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Not Applicable

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

On June 14, 2017, Council adopted Resolution 8384 creating the City of Reno Human Rights Commission. According to the resolution, the Commission shall consist of up to 14 members who adequately represent the various human rights-related interests in the city. The Commission will act in an advisory capacity in respect to matters impacting human rights and make recommendations to the Council regarding the development of programs for the promotion of social justice, diversity/inclusion, equal opportunity and human dignity among all citizens and visitors.

Discussion:

City residency is not required to be Commission member. Commission members shall serve two-year, staggered terms. Council may nominate and re-appoint a person for one consecutive two-year term. After a Commission member has served a total of four consecutive years, the member may not be re-appointed until there has been a one-year gap in service. Council may waive those term limits in specific instances where specific membership qualifications are desired or no qualified person has applied for appointment on the Commission. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

Method of Appointment: Appointed by City Council.

Financial Implications:

None at this time.

Legal Implications:

Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements apply to any committee appointed by the Council.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council make the necessary appointments as noted in the staff report and rosters for each appointment.

Proposed Motion:

I move to appoint _____ as the Ward 4 representative to the Human Rights Commission.

I move to appoint _____ as the Ward 5 representative to the Human Rights Commission.

I move to appoint _____ as the At-Large representative to the Human Rights Commission.

Attachments:

- HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ROSTER
- COLLING, KATIE APPLICATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WARD 3)
- LABONTE, DOMINIQUE APPLICATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WARD 2)
- SANDOVAL, HAGEN APPLICATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WASHOE)
- WHITLOCK LAX, DEBRA APPLICATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (WARD 4)