



SUMMER 2016

Human Relations Supporting Juneteenth Celebration

The city's Human Relations Department was once again a sponsor at the 12th annual Juneteenth festival, organized by Triad Cultural Arts and on Saturday, June 18. This year's festival was held from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bailey Park and Biotech Place in Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. Activities will include a health fair, a forum on the Black family, cooking demonstrations, arts and crafts, a children's area, music and tributes to Prince, B.B. King, Natalie Cole, Maurice White, and others.

The Human Relations Department is one of three founding sponsors for the festival. For more information, visit TriadCulture.org or call 336-757-8556."



Performers at Bailey Park

Community Trust Talks

The Human Relations staff and commission members facilitated "Trust Talks" between representatives of the Winston-Salem Police Department and citizens from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, May 19, at the Little Creek Recreation Center. The event was open to the public.

Trust Talks allows residents and police to discuss such issues as community safety, stereotypes, perceptions, trust, and other areas of concern. The Human Relations Department has been organizing trust talks since 2011 as a way to foster communication between law enforcement and the community

April is Fair Housing Month

The city's annual observance of Fair Housing Month began Fri., April 1, when Council Member Jeff MacIntosh

**City of Winston-Salem
Human Relations Department**



Observing Fair Housing Month

read a proclamation by Mayor Allen Joines during the Fair Housing Month Kick-Off Luncheon at the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors Office.

Winston-Salem has a fair housing ordinance that mirrors the Fair Housing Act. The Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission and Human Relations Department are responsible for enforcing fair housing laws locally to ensure fair and equal housing access and treatment for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, family status, or religion.

The Human Relations annual Fair and Affordable Housing Summit for housing professionals was held on Thurs. April 21, at 11:30 a.m. at the Benton Convention Center.

Fair Housing Month:

The department held its monthly fair housing training at City Hall on Wed., April 6, at 10 a.m. The training was open to the public.

Nexus, a quarterly public affairs television program produced by Human Relations on WSTV Digital Media, was focused on Fair Housing Month.

"The Other Side," a drama examining housing and race discrimination before the civil-rights era, was showed during April on WSTV Digital Media.

Annual Fair and Affordable Housing Summit

This year's summit was sponsored by the Human Relations Department, the Community and Business Development Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, North Carolina Housing Foundation, Piedmont Federal Savings Bank, PNC Bank, BB&T; Platinum Sponsors: Bank of NC, the Charlotte Community Relations Committee, the Forsyth County Housing Department, the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, the Housing Authority of Winston-

Salem, the Center for Homeownership, and Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.



Many sponsors join ranks to recognize Annual Fair and Affordable Housing Summit

Commission's Breaking Barriers Fair Housing Award for 2016.

The award is presented annually to a community agency, organization, business, or non-profit that promotes fair housing opportunity within Winston-Salem.

Atkins was selected for its work in revitalizing the housing stock by renovating dilapidated houses and building new homes, and for its role in serving as the coordinating neighborhood agency for the city's Transforming Urban Residential Neighborhood's program, said Wanda Allen-Abraha, the city's human relations director.

"S.G. Atkins CDC was selected for the 2016 Breaking Barriers Fair Housing Award due to their significant impact in providing fair and affordable housing opportunity in our community," Allen-Abraha said.

"This impact will only grow with their involvement with the TURN program, which provides housing rehabilitation and financial assistance to qualifying property owners in neighborhoods selected for the TURN program."

Women's History Month Panel

The Human Relations Department hosted a Women's History Month event at Salem College on March 30, at 6 p.m. The Modern Woman: Who is She? was a panel discussion celebrating the modern woman. The panelists included; Dr. Kimya Dennis, Dr. Angela Kocze, Alyson Francisco, Janet Wheeler, Dr. Mary Jamis, and Dara Silver. Human Relations Commissioner, Sonny Haynes, moderated the forum. A few



Celebration of the modern woman

During the event, the Simon G. Atkins Community Development Corporation was presented with the Human Relations

Commission's Breaking Barriers Fair Housing Award for 2016.

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of the topics discussed were women's historical issues, LGBT, national women's issues, and intergenerational issues.



Human Relations Department & Commission News

Welcome Aboard Tonya!

Tonya H. McPhatter joined the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department in March of 2016. Ms. McPhatter previously worked as a leasing consultant, where she learned about the importance of fair housing and the Fair Housing Act. Her belief is that all people are equal and deserve the same things regardless of race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, or color. Most of Tonya's background has been working in a school environment where she showed children that they are loved no matter where they come from or what they have been through. She feels privileged to work in the Human Relations Department where a difference is made.



Tonya H. McPhatter

Tonya attended college at Montreat-Anderson and Greensboro College. She looks forward to seeing the city of Winston-Salem being the best it can be for everybody.

Student Race Relations Follow-up

Human Relations featured students from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County high schools held a follow-up forum on the state of race relations Wednesday evening, May 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Parkland High School auditorium, 1600 Brewer Road, Winston-Salem. The public was invited.

During the forum students discussed stereotypes, perceptions in the classroom, interracial issues, youth social interactions, and youth social justice and how these issues may have changed since the annual Student Race Relations Forum held in September. The discussion was moderated by members of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council. The forum was sponsored by the Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission. Please join us at the fall Student Race Relations Forum on September 22, 2016 at the R.J Reynolds High School at 6:60 pm.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced last October that the Analysis of Impediments (AI) report would no longer be used by grantees. Instead, the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) will take its place in the continued effort to affirmatively further fair housing. HUD defines affirmatively furthering fair housing as taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics.

Wanda Allen-Abraha, Director of the Human Relations

Time For Nexus Challenge...



1) If a person selling his/her home, who is using a real estate agent, refuses an offer because of the buyer's national origin, who may file a federal lawsuit against the seller?

- A. The prospective buyer
- B. The real estate agent
- C. The federal government
- D. All of the above

Answer – D—All of the above.

National Origin is protected under the Fair Housing Act. Therefore, any discrimination during the selling and buying process is prohibited. Anyone who has knowledge of this is able file a lawsuit.

2) In an advertisement for a small, two-bedroom house in a neighborhood where many families live, which of the following language is clearly improper under the Fair Housing Act?

- A. Small, cozy home in quiet neighborhood
- B. Two-bedroom home, near playground and senior center
- C. Family friendly
- D. No children

Answer – D—No children. This would be familial status discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. It is best to always describe the property and nearby amenities, not the potential buyer, when advertising.

...furthering Fair Housing continued

Department and Ritchie Brooks, Director of the Community and Business Development Department, co-hosted a training session in city hall for AFH submitters, community partners, and elected officials to learn more about this new HUD initiative. Wes Eplen, Program Analyst in the Office of Policy, Legislative Initiatives and Outreach for HUD, was invited to provide a comprehensive explanation of not only the assessment requirements but also the various resources HUD provides to each jurisdiction. Mr. Eplen emphasized that the purpose of AFH is to clarify what actions need to be taken to expand and foster fair housing efforts in local and state governments as well as other relevant organizations in their respective jurisdictions. He also noted that an AFH guidebook along with extensive jurisdictional data and maps can be found online at <https://www.hudexchange.info/>.

In addition to more accurately identifying local barriers to fair housing choice, the AFH will provide an improved mechanism for measuring the effectiveness of steps taken to adhere to and further the policies of the Fair Housing Act.



Commissioners' Corner...

A graduate of North Forsyth High School, Jeffrey studied opera performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Mr. Griffin worked with hall of fame broadcaster and local icon, Glenn Scott, on WSJS radio for eight years as producer, anchor and host. He may be more familiar to Twin City residents, having served as the public address announcer for the Wake Forest Demon Deacons since 2001! He is also the voice of the ACC Men's Basketball Tournament and the Winston-Salem Dash.



Jeffrey Griffin

Jeffrey married Vikki Jenkin in 2006 and they are the extremely proud parents of Sophia Elizabeth and Miles Roswell Christian. The family is actively involved in the ministries of Center Grove Baptist Church and Jeffrey, an instructor in the Broadcasting Program at the Career Center in downtown Winston-Salem, works tirelessly to instill a commitment to community service in his school children as well as Sophia and Miles.

In addition to volunteering as a member of the Forsyth County Public Library Board of Trustees and a grade-parent extraordinaire, Mr. Griffin is a 2015 Voya Unsung Heroes Award honoree as well as a WS/FC Arts Council Community Enrichment, Winston-Salem Foundation Booke Family Trust and ECOLAB grant recipient. He was a presenter at the inaugural WSFCS Collaborative Learning Conference and the 2013 NCAA Public Address Announcer of the Year.

Jeffrey has established the Schoolhouse Storytelling Festival and a Communications College Fair for 2,400 Career Center students while his writing has been published in "Winston-Salem Monthly."

Friends and family say he is loud, he tells great stories, he makes faces and he is especially fond of saying "it costs nothing to be kind." Most importantly, he spends time singing silly songs in the car and exploring Winston-Salem and the world with Vikki, Sophia and Miles.

Upcoming Events ...

- September**
 - 7 Newcomers Trust Talks—6 p.m., Forsyth Tech West Campus
 - 9 Fair Housing/Landlord Tenant Training—10 a.m., City Hall
 - 10 International Village—Noon-8 p.m., Corpening Plaza
 - 13 HRC Annual Report to Council—4:30 p.m., City Hall, Room 239
 - 22 High School Student Race Relations Forum—6:30 p.m. RJ Reynolds HS
 - 24 Fiesta—11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Downtown Winston-Salem
- October**
 - 12 Fair Housing/Landlord Tenant Training—10 a.m., City Hall
 - 27 Human Relations Commission Mtg. 5:30 p.m., BAS 5th Flr. Public Mtg. Rm.
- November**
 - 9 Fair Housing/Landlord Tenant Training—10 a.m., City Hall
 - TBA Human Relations Commission Mtg. 5:30 p.m., BAS 5th Flr. Public Mtg. Rm.

Mission Statement

Eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing accessibility by working with community entities (government, businesses, clergy, education, civic, educating/empowering minorities, persons with disabilities and others) in developing, implementing and analyzing activities

Mayor: Allen Joines

City Council:
Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward
Denise D. Adams, North Ward
Dan Besse, Southwest Ward
Robert C. Clark, West Ward
Molly Leight, South Ward
Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward
Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward
James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward

City Manager: Lee D. Garity

Human Relations Commission

Nora Baker (Chair)
greedypta45@yahoo.com

Michael Clinton (Vice Chair)
mclinton1@triad.rr.com

Timothy Auman
aumant@wfu.edu

Joana DeBo
jthemidotudela@gmail.com

Sonny Haynes
shaynes@wcsr.com

Robert Leak III
rleaknbcommunity@gmail.com

Jeffrey Griffin
jeffreyandvickii@yahoo.com

Barbara Saulpaugh
bsaulpau@wakehealth.edu

Manjunath Shamanna
mshamanna@yahoo.com

Sita Somara
somasarita1114@gmail.com

Ben Tennille
businessjudge@gmail.com

Eusebio Velez
evelez@forsythtech.edu

Human Relations Staff

Wanda Allen-Abraha, J.D., Director
Adolfo Briceño, Specialist, Hispanic Outreach
Jelani Biggs, Specialist
Tonya McPhatter, Adm. Assistant/Intake Specialist
Jayme Waldeck, Outreach Specialist

Human Relations Committees

Community Relations

To provide programs that promote an understanding of respect for cultural diversities; provides educational programs regarding human relations, human rights, and civil rights; promotes ways to build bridges of understanding throughout the community.

Student Relations

To provide human relations and leadership experience for high school students through diversity, facilitation and conflict resolution training. The SHRC will conduct forums to educate students on human relations issues and assist in nurturing a positive human relations climate throughout the school system.

Interfaith

To initiate activities that facilitate the harmonious bringing together of people of various faiths and beliefs in an effort to foster a better understanding of how citizens can live together respectfully as they openly practice their spiritual and religious beliefs.

New Horizons

To eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing accessibility by working with the community entities (government, businesses, clergy, education, civic, educating/empowering minorities, persons with disabilities and others) in developing, implementing and analyzing activities that impact on housing availability.

Multi-Cultural Relations

To include and partner with national origin organizations and communities by promoting, supporting, celebrating, and highlighting diverse cultural traditions and customs through informational programs, festivals, and discussions that proactively encourage acceptance and non-discrimination while educating the community at-large.

Designed by City of Winston-Salem
Marketing & Communications Department

Report a problem
Request a new service
Send suggestion or comment
Hours of Operation:
7 am - 7 pm weekdays
9 am - 5:30 pm weekends
CityLink 311
Call 311 or 336-727-8000
citylink@cityofus.org



Winston-Salem Human Relations Department assists citizens with housing, landlord/tenant rights and community relations. For more information, please call:
311 (336-727-8000)
Fax 336-748-3002
www.cityofws.org