



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission selects 12 individuals to serve on Founding Committee that will establish a Community-Police Advisory Council

ANCHORAGE — The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission (AERC) is pleased to announce the Founding Committee members who will work to establish a Community-Police Advisory Council. AERC received a total of 42 applications from Anchorage residents and would like to express our appreciation to all applicants. After reviewing the applications, 11 individuals and one alternate were selected to serve on the Founding Committee. The Committee will exist for a short period of time so that it can perform the following critical functions:

- engage the community, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice - Community Relations Service (CRS);
- evaluate the current state of community-police relationships within the Municipality;
- determine the scope of a Community-Police Advisory Council based on community feedback; and
- solicit applications and select the initial members of the Advisory Council.

The Founding Committee members are: 1) Alex Cleghorn, 2) Bryson Corbett, 3) Angelina Fraize, 4) Farrah Greene-Palmer, 5) Eric Gurley, 6) Robert Henderson, 7) Celeste Hodge Growden, 8) Gregory I. Jones, 9) Kevin D. McGee, 10) Ayyu Qassataq, 11) Issa Spatrisano, and 12) Yronelly (Elly) Sanchez (alternate). These individuals will each contribute their unique perspectives and experiences to assure that the Advisory Council will successfully work with the Anchorage Police Department to strengthen community-police relationships and maintain the highest standards of police accountability. Throughout this process, there will be many opportunities for those interested in this cause to actively participate, including 1) engaging in community conversations, discussions, and dialogues, 2) volunteering time and expertise to assist the Founding Committee, and 3) applying to be the initial members of the Community-Police Advisory Council.

“The AERC will be available to the Founding Committee in an advisory capacity, but the CRS will now be the Committee’s main resource. We are looking forward to seeing the Committee develop as an independent, community group,” said Mitzi Bolaños Anderson, Executive Director of the AERC. The Founding Committee will soon engage with the CRS in a series of trainings to prepare for the work ahead, with the goal of establishing the Advisory Council by early next year.

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