The purpose of the Commission is to secure for all citizens equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education, and full participation in the affairs of the community and to take appropriate action consistent with the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The Commission shall also advise the City Council on long range programs to improve human relations in the City. Richfield City Code Section 305.01, Sub.3

2019 Officers
Chair – Brett Stursa
Vice Chair – Heather Eastlund
Secretary – Bob Mulcahy
Social Media liaison – Katie Goodemote

2019 Liaisons
City Council – Simon Trautmann
City Staff – Deputy Chief Mike Flaherty
School Board – Tim Pollis

2018/2019 ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY EDUCATION/OUTREACH/ADVOCACY

Naturalization Ceremony
The Human Rights Commission hosted a naturalization ceremony with 201 people becoming U.S. citizens at Holy Angels on Feb 19, 2019. Partners included Holy Angels, the Richfield Police Department and US District Court for the District of Minnesota. Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez represented the city.
Proclamations

The Human Rights Commission approved the Black History Month proclamation, which the council approved at its Jan. 22, 2019, meeting. The commission recently approved a proclamation about the Americans with Disabilities Act anniversary, which we hope the council will approve in July. The commission will work on a proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month for council approval in September as well. The commission hopes these proclamations serve as a way for our community to proactively declare our values and hope they promote greater awareness and understanding.

Gender neutral bathrooms

The Human Rights Commission has requested that the city of Richfield change signage to single stall bathrooms in city buildings to be gender neutral and to encourage all in the city to do the same.

Penn Fest

The Human Rights Commission had a table at Penn Fest in September. We had 119 people add their special trait to the Richfield Human Rights Commission community chain, and we handed out material about the HRC and how to apply for city commissions.

Updated Human Rights Commission postcard

The Human Rights Commission updated its outdated brochure and printed new postcards about the purpose of the commission. Postcards were printed in English and Spanish and are included at the end of this report.

Housing workshops

The Human Rights Commission was awarded a $1,500 grant from the Richfield Foundation. We are in discussions with city staff and community partners about hosting housing workshops to inform tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities.

History project

The Richfield Human Rights Commission turned 50 this year. In partnership with the city and the Richfield History Center, we are researching the commission’s history with an eye toward celebrating its half-century legacy of promoting greater awareness and understanding.

Storytime with Miss Richfield

In October, the Human Rights Commission partnered with the Augsburg Library, which hosted Stories Together with Miss Richfield 1981. The event was a safe space for children and caregivers to celebrate self-expression and gender fluidity through stories, rhymes and movement.

GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS

Appointment of new 2018/2019 HRC commissioners: The HRC welcomed new members Adam Alaihaimier, Michele Thompson, Kris Anderson, Luz Luna Apodaca, Todd Diede, Tasha Ostendorf and Deandra Davis. This comes after last year’s appointment of six new members.
**Continued emphasis on social media presence:** The HRC is working hard to expand our presence in social media spaces. We have a permanent, voluntary role of social media coordinator. Brett Stursa and Katie Goodemote have worked closely with Neil Ruhland, media coordinator with the city. In addition, articles were published in the Richfield Sun Current and [FOX 9](https://www.fox9.com) about HRC activities.

**Gene and Mary Jacobsen Outstanding Citizen Award:** The HRC selected Brice Eichlersmith as the 2019 winner of the Gene and Mary Jacobsen Outstanding Citizen Award. Pastor Brice was honored with an award, reception, and presentation to the City Council in June of 2019.
The Richfield Human Rights Commission helps to secure human rights and equal opportunity for the residents of Richfield in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, public services and education.
Who we are
The Richfield Human Rights Commission is a 13-member advisory commission to the Richfield City Council. Members are appointed to the commission by the City Council.

What we do
Through educational events, award recognition and advocacy efforts the Richfield Human Rights Commission works to secure human rights and equal opportunity for the residents of Richfield.

Join us
The Richfield Human Rights Commission generally meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Richfield City Hall. The commission welcomes all community members to attend its meetings.

Areas of protection and protected classes

Every person in Minnesota is protected by the Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, disability, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation and local Human Rights Commission activity. The act prohibits discrimination in business, credit, education, employment, housing, public accommodations and public services.

Contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to report an incident of discrimination or request more information about human rights protections at 1-800-657-3704 or visit mn.gov/mdhr.
La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Richfield ayuda a garantizar los derechos humanos y la igualdad de oportunidades para los residentes de Richfield en las áreas de vivienda, empleos, servicios públicos y educación.
Quienes somos
La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Richfield es una comisión asesora de 13 miembros para el Concejo Municipal de Richfield. Los miembros son nombrados para la comisión por el Concejo Municipal.

Lo que hacemos
A través de eventos educativos, reconocimiento al trabajo bien hecho y esfuerzos en abogacía, la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Richfield trabaja para garantizar los derechos humanos y la igualdad de oportunidades para los residentes de Richfield.

Únase a nosotros
La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Richfield generalmente se reúne el primer martes de cada mes a las 6:30 p.m. en el Ayuntamiento de Richfield. La comisión da la bienvenida a todos los miembros de la comunidad para asistir a sus reuniones.

www.richfieldmn.gov
612-861-9700

Áreas de protección y clases protegidas
La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Richfield se alinea con el Departamento de Derechos Humanos de Minnesota y los objetivos establecidos en la Ley de Derechos Humanos de Minnesota. La Ley de Derechos Humanos es una ley estatal que prohíbe la discriminación en Minnesota.

Toda persona en Minnesota está protegida por la Ley de Derechos Humanos, que prohíbe la discriminación por raza, color, credo, religión, origen nacional, sexo, estado civil, estado familiar, discapacidad, estado de asistencia pública, edad, orientación sexual, derechos humanos locales y las actividades de la Comisión. La ley prohíbe la discriminación en los negocios, el crédito, la educación, el empleo, la vivienda, las instalaciones públicas y los servicios públicos.

Comuníquese con el Departamento de Derechos Humanos de Minnesota para reportar cualquier incidente de discriminación o solicitar más información sobre las protecciones de los derechos humanos en 1-800-657-3704 o visite mn.gov/mdhr.