



**COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
COMMISSION**  
CITY OF GOSHEN

## **Community Relations Commission City of Goshen, Indiana**

### **Annual Report – 2014**

#### **Mission**

To foster a climate of positive community relationships and non-discrimination in which all Goshen citizens enjoy equal opportunity for education, employment, access to public conveniences, accommodations and real property.

#### **Origin and Background**

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) was created by Ordinance 4201, “An Ordinance Creating the Goshen Community Relations Commission and Prescribing the Powers and Duties of the Commission,” adopted by the Common Council on April 13, 2004. Goshen was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana city to establish a human/community relations commission. Mayor Allan Kauffman convened the first meeting on August 17, 2004.

#### **CRC Principles**

- Respect for each other and respect for each other’s rights
- Open communication and engagement
- Honesty
- A safe community
- Acceptance that change has positive and negative consequences
- Tolerance of differences
- Support for equality and freedom from discrimination

## CRC Initiatives in 2014

**Taste of Goshen: May 2 First Friday:** In May the Commission sponsored a diverse food tent just East of Main Street on Washington. Groups from the Korean, East Indian, Puerto Rican, El Salvadoran, Russian, Ukrainian, Palestinian and Amish communities provided food for sale at distinct booths under the tent. Musical entertainment also served to attract the public. Attendance was very strong, with the tent full through the evening, and vendors pleased with their sales. The CRC displayed our Principles and provided other information relevant to our mission at the event.



Interra Credit Union provided a generous \$1000 sponsorship for the event.



### **Community Policing Presentations:**

The CRC agreement with Gilberto Perez of Bienvenido Community Solutions, LLC to provide funding to market and facilitate Community Policing Presentations (CPP) in local Latino congregations came to an end in June. The CPPs are public question and answer forums allowing the Latino community to directly engage with local law enforcement. Law enforcement panelists were Detective Mario Mora, Chief Wade Branson, and Sheriff Brad Rogers. Goals of the CPP are to improve trust between law enforcement and the Latino community, increase

reporting of crime by the Latino community, and provide a forum for complaints of discrimination or maltreatment by law enforcement. The final report submitted to the CRC by Mr. Perez is attached as Appendix A.

**Our Stories, Goshen's Story:** The Commission partially funded staffing for the gathering, transcription and presentation of stories from Goshen residents related to the intersection of their life story with the greater story of Goshen. Primarily these stories were displayed at the Spohn building in conjunction with June's First Friday, and in a 'linear gallery' along the Millrace during the art fair adjacent to the Hawk's building the following Saturday. The CRC retains the portraits and texts from these stories and plans to utilize them during the May 2015 First Friday.

**Vision 2025:** The Steering Committee for the Vision project met monthly through much of 2014. Primarily, they were tasked with developing a process to gain the widest and most relevant community input into uncovering a Vision for the future of community relations in Goshen. The Committee developed a two path approach to gaining community input; developing both a survey and a series of questions for small group dialogues. Surveys and dialogues have recently completed as of the writing of this report, and we look forward to the results of the analysis of the information gathered there.



Vision 2025 Steering Committee Members:

1. Alan Metcalfe-Goshen Community Schools
2. Mario Mora-Goshen Police Department
3. Mary Gilbert-Rieth Park Neighborhood Association
4. Jim Siegman-Horizon Education Alliance
5. Araceli Lepe-Goshen Community Schools
6. S. Rocio Diaz-Goshen College
7. Joe Miller-Maple City Chapel
8. Mark Lindemood-IU Goshen Health
9. Brad Weirich-Better World Books
10. Glenn Null-CRC
11. Nathan Mateer Rempel-CRC
12. Sandra MacMasters-CRC

**Other items of note:**

- The Commission entertained a solicited proposal for a marketing plan from Eyedart Creative. Finally, the Commission elected to look for other ways to increase public awareness of its work.
- The Commission provided input for the City’s Comprehensive Plan, particularly components involving neighbor to neighbor relations and diversity.
- Commission membership is beginning to more accurately reflect the population of Goshen in terms of gender, ethnicity, and political views.
- Commission members began evaluation and editing of a proposed City Council resolution regarding Goshen’s past as a ‘Sundown Town’. This resolution was brought to the Commission by community members Dan Shenk and Lee Roy Berry.

## Upcoming Initiatives

**Diversity Events:** The CRC is expanding its role with Downtown Goshen for First Friday events this coming May. The May event is branded as ‘Taste of Goshen’ after the CRC’s annual event. In addition to our usual tent featuring a variety of ethnic foods, we are sponsoring musical performances at Ignition garage by Dos Hermanos, the Dean’s List, and Los Ortega, as well as displays of Humans of Goshen stories in DGI member downtown restaurants.

**Continuation of Community Project Support from CRC:** In the past the CRC has made monies available for community projects or initiatives particularly where those projects interact with our Strategic Plan and Principles. We have recently approved a memorandum of understanding with Bienvenido Community Solutions and LaCasa, Inc for a program designed to increase participation of Latinos in neighborhood associations.

**Goshen Vision 2025:** Collected information from group dialogues and surveys will be analyzed for common themes. These themes will inform the Steering Committee in crafting a Vision to guide the work of the CRC going forward.

## Financial Summary

### Private Funds, Grants and Donations

Balance, January 1, 2014	\$	7035.54
Grants		0
Interest Earned		5.75
Interra Donation		1000.00
Total Expenses		0
Balance, December 31, 2014	\$	8041.29

### Public Funds

Balance, January 1, 2014	\$	0
Encumbrances from 2013		16,500.00
Income		24,000.00
Total Expenses		<u>(25,495.12)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2014	\$	<u>15,004.88</u>
Encumbrances from 2014 to 2015	\$	<u>13,214.41</u>

## Statistics

### Commissioner Meeting Attendance

The Commission held 13 public meetings in 2014. Average attendance for the year was 83%, 7 points higher than the average for 2013.

Commissioner	Ja	Fe	Ma	Ma2	Ap	My	Jn	Jl	Au	Se	Oc	No	De	Tot	% P
Bryce Gast	1	1	1	1	A	A	1	A	1	1	1	A	1	9	70
Joe Liechty	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	A	A	1	1	1	10	77
Sandra MacMasters	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	12	92
Nathan Mateer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	100
Rempel															
Sreekala	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	A	1	1	11	85
Rajagopalan															
Glenn Null	1	1	1	1	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	85
George Smucker	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	92
Bob Rademaker	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	A	A	9	70
Ed Ahlersmeyer	1	A	1	1	A	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	10	77
Members Total	8	7	9	9	6	7	7	7	6	8	8	7	8		83
Guests & Others	3	4	3	1	1	3	3	2	6	1	2	7	3		

### Incidence and Prevalence of Discrimination

The CRC is mandated (Ordinance 4201) to receive and process complaints of discrimination related to employment, real estate, education, public accommodation and credit on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, and familial status. Monitoring the frequency, trends and nature of complaints is an assessment of the extent of discrimination, thus identifying needs for education and community building.

The primary tool for receiving information about discrimination is a private and confidential phone reporting/recording or email system advertised on the CRC website.

### Results

The Commission received no calls related to specific incidents of discrimination in 2014. We did receive calls related to issues between tenant and landlords, Section 8 applications, and other miscellaneous inquiries that we are able to forward to the appropriate offices.

### Meetings *(unless announced otherwise)*

- Monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.
- Goshen City Hall, Conference Room, 202 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Goshen.

All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## **Commission Members on December 31, 2014**

### **Common Council Appointments and Terms** (year ends December 31)

Sandra MacMasters (2013-2015)

Sreekala K Rajagopalan (2013-2015)

Ed Ahlersmeyer (2013-2015)

Glenn Null (2012-2014)

### **Mayor Allan Kauffman's Appointments and Terms**

Bryce Gast (2014-2016)

Bob Rademaker(2014-2016)

Joe Liechty (2012-2014)

George Smucker (2013-2015)

Nathan Mateer Rempel (2012-2014)

### **2014 Officers**

Chairperson: Nathan Mateer Rempel

Vice-chair: George Smucker

Treasurer: Glenn Null

Secretary: Joe Liechty

Diversity Day Advisor: Sreekala Rajagopalan

Ambassadors at Large: Sandra MacMasters

Bryce Gast

Bob Radmaker

Liaison to City Council: Ed Ahlersmeyer

### **2014 Taste of Goshen Volunteers and Donors**

Anne H. Berry

Beth Berry

Sreekala Rajagopalan

Nayo Ulloa

Jim McKee

Interra Credit Union