

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FIRST QUARTER REPORT

April 12, 2016

The commission welcomed member Jill Johnson. With her appointment, all positions on the commission are filled.

The commission conducted the annual essay contest for students in Grade 11 at Kirkwood High School, St. John Vianney High School and the Ursuline Academy. The chosen topic was "What can I do to foster human rights in our community." 87 essays were received and read by all members of the commission. The winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the City Council meeting of April 21.

The Annual Report for 2015 was completed and presented at the March 3 City Council meeting. A revised version of the report was prepared for inclusion as a utility bill insert for the month of March

The revised guidelines for an award recognizing an individual's outstanding contributions to human rights in our community were accepted, and the process for choosing recipients was formalized. Members Amanda Sher and Ron Hodges will maintain a list of potential recipients through the year, and the winner will be chosen in the fourth quarter.

In a continuing effort to "build collaborative relationships with community-based organizations [and] faith communities," the Rev. Barbara Gadon of Eliot Chapel was invited to the February meeting to discuss the efforts of the Kirkwood Policing Committee, in conjunction with Kirkwood Neighbors United, to assess and optimize local police practices.