



# Highlights & Accomplishments of the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission in 2020

We have continued our association and cooperation with other Human Rights organizations, including the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Kirkwood Social Justice Coalition, Metropolitan Congregations United, and the Alliance for Interracial Dignity. We have extended our cooperation with the Kirkwood-Des Peres Chamber of Commerce in developing a program to recognize businesses which employ or train workers with diverse abilities. We also partnered with Kirkwood United Methodist Church to register voters and notarize ballots for the 2020 General Election.

Through the pandemic, we have held monthly virtual meetings and continued to be active and vigilant in our mission of promoting Human Rights, striving to fulfill the promises made in the Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity adopted by the City of Kirkwood in July of 2017:

- Diversity is the variety of human differences.
- Inclusion is valuing and respecting those differences.
- Equity is the equality of opportunity that comes with true inclusion.
- In Kirkwood we believe that through diversity we will excel; through inclusion we will draw each person into our circle of community; and focused on equity for all we will serve each person.
- Our citizens are respected based on individual strengths regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, life experience, geographic background, skills or talents, and other valued differences.
- We strive to ensure that all who are present in this building feel safe, welcome, and respected.
- We desire that our embrace of diversity, inclusion and equity be extended throughout our community and beyond.

The Human Rights Commission meets virtually via Zoom the Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. When in-person meetings resume the commission will return to meeting at City Hall in the Main Level Conference room.



All from left to right: Front Row: Maggie Duwe, Council Member and KHRC Council Liaison, Carolyn Becker, Commissioner,  
Second Row: Suzanne Hart and Shonda Ambers-Phillips  
Third Row: Judy Moticka, Vice-Chair, Jeanne Webdell, Commissioner, Back Row: Amanda Sher, Chair, Roberta McWoods, Award Recipient

- Our relationship with the Kirkwood Police Department remains strong, and we continue our regular meetings with Chief Brian Murphy about his focus on avoiding bias in all police interactions with the public.
- We have established relationships with the administration of the Kirkwood R-7 School District and with students in the district. Student organizations including the Gay-Straight Alliance and the Kirkwood High Coalition have attended our meetings to share information about their work. Our 2020 essay contest drew more than 100 entries from 11th grade students enrolled at Kirkwood High School.

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