



## Committee

## Programs & Events

- Capital Pride
- City of Bismarck Humanitarian Award
- Essay Contest
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
- These Are Your Neighbors Podcast
- And More!

## Meeting Times / Locations

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee meets the third Monday of each month at 5:15 PM, with the exception of holidays. Meetings are held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Mayor's Conference Room, 221 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Bismarck, ND. Meetings are open to the public and public comments are welcomed.

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Bismarck Human Relations Committee is to create an atmosphere of inclusion, equality, and accessibility through education and outreach to recognize the value of a diverse community.

## History

Ordinance No. 5208 created the Bismarck Human Relations Committee (HRC) and received final passage on October 8, 2002. The HRC's purpose is to promote acceptance and respect for diversity through educational programs and activities and to discourage all forms of discrimination including protected class discrimination, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) violations, or other statutory or constitutional violations.



[www.bismarcknd.gov/](http://www.bismarcknd.gov/)  
HumanRelationsCommittee



## Appointment to the Committee

The Human Relations Committee consists of nine members who serve without pay. Members are appointed by the President of the Board of City Commissioners and are subject to confirmation by the Board of City Commissioners. Appointees serve three-year terms.



**“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”**

Nelson Mandela



## Committee Members

Sargianna Wutzke - Chair

Katie Houle - Vice Chair

Gabrielle Abouassaly

Thea Jorgensen

Joan Klein

Mirabela Punga

Betsy Zarr

## Goals of the Committee

The Bismarck Human Relations Committee has the following goals and objectives as defined in its Strategic Plan:

- To exhibit leadership in the areas of civil and human rights.
- To educate the public about civil and human rights.
- To identify issues of principal concern in the area of civil and human rights.
- To recommend priorities and objectives about issues of community concern to the City Commission.
- To advocate for compliance with federal and state laws regarding civil and human rights, including North Dakota Century Code Chapters 14-02.4 (human rights) & 14-02.5 (housing) of the City Code of ordinances.