



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION CITY • OF • GOSHEN

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

This letter is an update from the Goshen Community Relations Commission regarding our purpose and hopes for an inclusive and egalitarian community in our challenging times.

Founded in 2004 by Goshen city ordinance, the CRC has nine volunteer members. Some are appointed by the Mayor, others by the Common Council; members serve a 3-year term but may ask to be reappointed. Current members include chair Don Brown, vice-chair Cathie Cripe, secretary Judith Davis, and treasurer A.J. Delgadillo; Yolo Lopez DeMarco, Michele Fanfair-Steury, Ed Groff, Glenn Null, Sreekala Rajagopalan, and student representative Mislenny Moreno. City Council member Julia King attends meetings as well.

The mission of the CRC is “to serve Goshen by developing programs and policies that aim for a city without racism or discrimination of any kind, and build capacity for creative problem solving, resiliency, understanding, and compassion among the diverse people in our community.” Our principles include a commitment to honor the dignity of each person and each person’s rights; listen to the diverse voices of the community; practice constructive communication and engagement; act with honesty, truthfulness and integrity; promote a community that is safe for all; acknowledge and accept the challenge of change—that it may have both positive and negative consequences; promote the acceptance of differences; and promote equality and freedom from discrimination.

In the past, the CRC has worked to acknowledge Goshen’s past as a “sundown town.” We have sponsored and worked for the annual food festival formerly known as Diversity Day, promoting different cultures. We have collaborated with Goshen Community Schools to hold a series of Community Conversations to identify the concerns of community members and to promote progress in addressing those concerns. We began a series of Bystander Trainings designed to help people respond to instances of confrontation or harassment. We have also heard from representatives of the court system regarding treatment of juvenile offenders and have listened to complaints about discriminatory and potentially harmful practices in housing.

The CRC welcomes visitors at our meetings and encourages participation by community members. We look forward to working with the City and a new CRC director, and to serving you in person after the coronavirus has left our community.