

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Appoint Sonia Marie Leikam and Christine Wallace Caldwell to the Human Rights Commission for 3-year terms to expire August 15, 2020 (Report)

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Presenter name:

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

This report is being proposed to appoint Sonia Marie Leikam and Christine Wallace Caldwell to the Human Rights Commission for 3-year terms to expire August 15, 2020.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

None

Community impacts and community involvement:

These commissioners will benefit the community by representing and engaging historically underrepresented populations in city government. The City's livability is impacted through their work to create an increasingly more equitable city for all Portland community members.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- ☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.
☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

Newly appointed Human Rights Commission commissioner bios and statement:

Sonia Marie Leikam is the Collaborative Giving Program Coordinator at the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. A graduate of Lewis & Clark College (BA) and Portland State University (M.Ed), she also holds a Certificate in Holocaust & Genocide Studies from Georgetown University and is a 2014 Carl Wilkens Fellow. She is a committed educator, advocate and community organizer who has specialized her work in genocide prevention, human rights advocacy and looking at issues of equity in our society and schools. A wife and mother first, she lives with her husband, three boys, three cats and a handful of chickens in SE Portland.

Previously the Executive Director of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, she is a current member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Intergroup Outreach committee and LGBT taskforce, the Never Again Coalition, the Oregon Coalition for Humanity, Congregation Shir Tikvah's steering committee and Racial Justice group and serves on the advisory committee of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Project at Portland State University. Co-owner and assistant brewer at Leikam Brewing, a Kosher craft brewery, Sonia Marie also volunteers with the local chapter of the Pink Boots Society, an organization seeking to empower women in the beer industry.

Statement:

My desire to serve as a Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Portland stems from my commitment to my community and a need to be working more closely with our government towards change. Having done much advocacy work in the past, in particular on international issues, I want to work on the pressing Human Rights issues in my own backyard. I am guided by the following statement in my work: "In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."

— Marianne Williamson

In 2011, Christine Wallace Caldwell formed her own company, Catalysis LLC, bringing together her years of work in non-profit leadership, community service, and planning. She provides support for complex groups engaged in planning, usually with an education, community service or research focus. She enjoys working with passionate people wanting to make a difference in the world, and that involves striving to capture how best to move forward with each organization, honoring its expertise, strengths, and values. She has developed over 20 strategic plans for large and small organizations including Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), City of Portland Environmental Services, the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists, the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the North America Association for Environmental Education involving stakeholders from three countries. Internationally she has worked with clients in Brazil, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and the UK through two global healthcare company foundations. In 2015, she facilitated for the International Summit on the Nutrition of Adolescent Girls & Young Women, and oversaw the development of Preliminary Calls for Action submitted to the UN Working Group on the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Statement: Increasingly my focus has turned to my role in the City of Portland, and striving to understand our history and current landscape of the complex, and often hidden, dynamics of discrimination, intolerance, and fear. Over the last few years I have focused on increasing my own understanding of the impact of unconscious bias, and was recently contracted by the OHSU

Center for Diversity & Inclusion to provide support for a campus-wide initiative. My desire to apply to the Human Rights Commission comes from a strong interest to work locally to ensure we are vigilant in protecting individual rights, personal agency, respect, and dignity. I am looking for opportunities to humbly offer my personal energy and resources to serve all people in Portland.