

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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## Action: Appointment to Human Rights Commission

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Meeting Date: January 13, 2014  
Department: City Manager's Office  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: 3C  
Staff Contact: Lindsey Foltz  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5619

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

This is an action item to appoint a member to the current vacancy on the Human Rights Commission.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) currently has one vacancy due to commissioner resignation. Section 2.013 and 2.270 of the Eugene Code address the HRC appointment process and the process for filling vacancies when they occur. For the HRC, the council is the appointing authority.

The annual recruitment for boards, committees and commissions was initiated on January 22, 2013, and concluded on March 29, 2013. The recruitment generated 15 applicants for the HRC from which the council can fill vacancies for expired terms and vacancies generated by commissioner resignations during FY 2014. Members of the council were provided with copies of the applications and interviewed six candidates in May of 2013. Four commissioners were appointed to fill expired terms and appointed July 1, 2013. Two additional commissioners were appointed to fill vacancies September 2013.

The council has now been asked to vote to fill one additional vacancy due to commissioner resignation; filling Position 7 which expires June 30, 2015.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

The Human Rights Commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council in the development of various city policies.

### **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

The City Council may:

1. Appoint the remaining applicant who previously received votes;
2. Appoint other applicants from the pool, or
3. Seek additional candidates for this position.

### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager has no recommendation on this item; the appointments are made by the council.

## **SUGGESTED MOTIONS**

There is one vacancy on the Human Rights Commission. After appointment to fill expired terms, and an additional appointment of two commissioners to fill vacancies, one candidate who was interviewed remains. Any applicant receiving 5 or more votes is placed on the council agenda for appointment, Debra Merskin has received six votes.

*Move to appoint Debra Merskin to Position 7 on the Human Rights Commission, to an unexpired term, ending on June 30, 2015.*

## **ATTACHMENT**

- A. Results of Ballot for Appointment to the Human Rights Commission
- B. Interested Applicant Information

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Staff Contact: Lindsey Foltz  
Telephone: 541-682-5619  
Staff E-Mail: [lindsey.m.foltz@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:lindsey.m.foltz@ci.eugene.or.us)