

“Linking Our Community”

Eviction Diversion Packet



A group of community organizations convened by the Human Relations Department have created an Eviction Diversion Packet with information and resources to help residents facing eviction. The packet is available in English and in Spanish and is posted at CityofWS.org. Printed versions of the packets are available by calling 336-734-1227.

The packet is designed to help both tenants and landlords, says Wanda Allen-Abraha, the human relations director. “With the eviction moratorium ending, we wanted to create something that lists the resources immediately available, with the goal of helping keep people in their homes,” Allen-Abraha said. “The packet also includes information about related resources,” Allen-Abraha said, “because eviction is often accompanied by other quality of life challenges, such as food insecurity, the need for clothing, utilities assistance, etc.”

The packet was a joint effort by the Eviction Diversion Network, an ad-hoc group of organizations that has been meeting to collaborate on how they can proactively best serve landlords and tenants in light of the end of the eviction moratorium put in place last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The network also has established an eviction diversion mediation program, Allen-Abraha said, through a partnership of the city, Legal Aid of North Carolina, the Wake Forest University School of Law & Community Law Clinic, and the Forsyth County Court system.

“We are continuing to analyze and consider best practices from other communities, nationwide, to identify other ways that we can provide assistance and an alternative to the expense of court,” Allen-Abraha said.

In addition to the Human Relations Department, network members include representatives of Forsyth County Department of Social Services, Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court, the Winston-Salem Community Development Department, the Winston-Salem Police Department, Wake Forest University

School of Law, the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, the United Way, the Experiment in Self Reliance, the Piedmont Triad Apartment Association, Financial Pathways of the Piedmont, and Legal Aid of North Carolina.

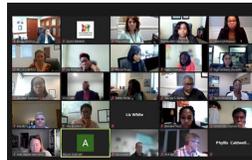
2021 Virtual International Village Food and Music Festival

The International Village Food and Music Festival, held annually in September, again is being held as a virtual event this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual International Village will be shown at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, on WSTV Digital Media. Performers included Zumba Latina (Zumba), Three Graces (dance), Tiger Kim’s Tae Kwon Do, Lion Tracks (music), and Kidane Mehret Ethiopian Church (traditional Ethiopian music and dance). There also will be encore performances from past festivals.

WSTV Digital Media can be seen on channel 13 on Spectrum or channel 99 on AT&T Uverse, and livestreamed on CityofWS.org. The festival, sponsored by the city’s Human Relations Department, celebrates cultures from all over the world through music, dancing, fashion shows, food and more. Organizers hope to resume the in-person festival in 2022.

Human Relations Commission Retreat

The Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission held its annual retreat on August 20, 2021 via Zoom. The commissioners kicked off the retreat with an icebreaker, led by Commissioners Preble and Wiggins, called UNESCO Story Circles. UNESCO Story Circles is a partnership with World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence and North Carolina Humanities. The commissioners also participated in ethics training for boards and commissions, conducted by Assis-



tant City Attorney Camile French, who serves as the City Ethics Officer. Ms. Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager, updated the Commission with the latest news from the City. During the last half of the retreat, commissioners updated, reviewed, and unanimously approved the 2021-2023 Human Relations Commission’s Strategic Action Plan.

Nondiscrimination Ordinances

On August 16, 2021 the Winston-Salem City Council unanimously approved two non-discrimination ordinance amendments for the City of Winston-Salem. The approved amendments are as follows, (1) prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodations or public accommodations which means any place, facility store, other establishment, hotel, motel, business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind, whether licensed or not, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations are extended, offered, sold or otherwise made available to the public. The terms do not include any private club, bona fide membership organization or other establishment closed to the public, and (2) prohibits discrimination in employment and applies to employers that employ one or more persons within the city limits.

Motion Passes		
Yes	No	Abstain
John C. Leisen	0	0
Wanda Allen-Abraha	0	0
Patrice Toney	0	0
James Taylor	0	0

The ordinance amendment does not apply to Forsyth County, the cities within Forsyth County, state or federal government.

There are also a number of other exemptions such as exemptions for religious corporations, associations or societies that employ individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by the corporation, association, or society of its religious activities. An aggrieved person may file a complaint with the City’s Human Relations Department which will investigate the complaint within sixty (60) days unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the Director finds reasonable cause to believe that a violation of the



either article has occurred, the Director may attempt conciliation. The parties may agree to a hearing before the hearing board of the Human Relations Commission. The conciliation and hearing processes are voluntary.

The ordinance amendment becomes effective January 1, 2022 and the civil enforcement process becomes effective March 1, 2022.

Human Relations Intern



Mayra Ramirez Manriquez, was a 2021 Salem College graduate. She received a Bachelors of Art in Spanish and will be receiving a Bachelor in Business Administration in the Spring 2022. Ms.

Ramirez Manriquez was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and moved to the United States when was 10 years old. She is very excited to be part of the Winston-Salem Human Relation Department as an Administrative intern. She enjoys being able to be con-

Fall Calendar

September

- 18 International Village Food and Music Festival 3:00 p.m.— via WSTV-13 and City's YouTube Channel
- 28 Youth Advisory Council Meeting 5:00 p.m.— via WSTV-13
- 29 College Advisory Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m.— via WSTV-13
- 30 High School Race Relations Forum 6:30 p.m.— via WSTV-13

October

- 6 African-American Heritage Initiative Meeting 2:00 p.m.— via WSTV-13
- 7 Non Discrimination Ad Hoc Sub Committee Meeting 4:00 p.m. via WSTV-13
- 26 Youth Advisory Council Meeting 5:00 p.m.— via WSTV-13
- 28 Human Relations Commission Meeting 5:30 p.m. live-streamed via the City's YouTube Channel

NEXUS Challenge

Question 1

Assuming they meet the required written income and credit qualifications, a landlord may refuse housing to which of the following types of persons?

- A. A lady with a mental illness
- B. A black male
- C. Muslim family
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: The answer is D. None of the above. A landlord may commit fair housing discrimination by refusing housing to anyone based on disability, national origin, race, color, sex, religion, or family status. If you feel you have been discriminated against, please contact the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department.

Question 2

If a person selling his/her home, who is using a real estate agent, refuses an offer because of the buyer's national origin, who may file a federal lawsuit against the seller?

- A. The prospective buyer
- B. The real estate agent
- C. The federal government
- D. All of the above

The answer is D—All of the above. National origin is protected under the Fair Housing Act. Therefore, any discrimination based on a person's country of origin during the selling and buying process is prohibited. Anyone who has knowledge of an alleged housing discrimination violation may be able to file a fair housing complaint with the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department.

Commissioner's Corner

Dr. Patrick Usher

Dr. Usher has traveled extensively throughout the United States and the Caribbean Islands, breaking denominational barriers. Though he ministers simplistically, he describes his delivery as profound and effective. He also shared that he is known throughout and around the country as the "Preaching Machine." He is the Pastor of Ishi Pentecostal Temple ("The Church of Champions") and chairman of Breaking Shackles Ministries.



Diocesan Bishop Richard E. Young appointed Pastor Usher to the office of District Elder in Region #4 of the South Carolina State Council of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. He is also a member of the Advisory Board and served as Executive Secretary. In May 2011, Dr. Usher was honored with a Doctorate Degree in Theology from St. Thomas Christian University. In February 2018, Dr. Usher was elevated to Suffragan Bishop by Presiding Bishop Charles H. Ellis, III, serving as Bishop of Information and Technology. Dr. Usher is proud to be a Human Relations Commissioner since Spring of 2020. He, currently, serves on the Human Relations Commission's Community Relations committee.



Winston-Salem

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citylink@cityofws.org

City Council

Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

Human Relations Commission

Chair: Robert Leak III; Vice-Chair: Kerry Wiggins; Jeffrey Bloomfield, Sonny Haynes, Michely Preble, Joshua Price, Ruth Sartin, Fred Taylor, Melissa Thompson, Patrick Usher

Human Relations Department Staff

Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD, Human Relations Department Director; Adolfo Briceño, Specialist/Hispanic Outreach; Iris McKnight, Specialist; Jayme Waldeck, Specialist/Outreach; Karlyn Duncan, Admin, Asst./Intake