

To the honorable members of the Palo Alto City Council:

In December 2016 Council unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming Palo Alto's commitment to being a "diverse, supportive, inclusive and protective" community. The Palo Alto Human Relations Commission (HRC) fully supports this resolution and stands ready to assist you in making it a reality for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits our community.

The HRC's mission is: "To promote the just and fair treatment of all people in Palo Alto, particularly our most vulnerable populations. By promoting awareness of issues and enabling conversations that enhance inclusion, the HRC strives to create a community where civility, respect and responsible actions are the norm."

To fulfill this mission we serve in a dual role, both as an advisory body to Council and as the voice of the community. Given the recent rise of hateful rhetoric across the nation, we are more committed than ever to bringing that voice to the attention of our City leaders.

Last year we began hosting a multipart forum called *Being Different Together* that encourages participants to share their experiences and collaboratively build a nurturing community that respects individual differences. In January, the HRC co-hosted an *Immigrants and Allies* forum that addressed the fears and concerns of undocumented members of our community. We also host an ongoing speaker series called *The Immigrant Experience* where community members share their immigration stories at HRC meetings.

Looking ahead, the HRC plans to host a *Service Workers* forum later this year to help educate and inform low-wage workers of their rights. And we continue to seek out human rights-related events and partners in order to share this information with the community through the City's Office of Human Services.

We will of course keep Council informed of these community events and hope that some of you will be able to attend. In addition, the HRC would welcome your guidance in identifying future events and activities that we can undertake to help ensure Palo Alto remains a safe and welcoming community that we can all be proud of.

With sincere thanks for your dedication and leadership,

The Palo Alto Human Relations Commission