

NEWS



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Michael A. Nutter, Mayor
Douglas I. Oliver, Press Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR NUTTER APPOINTS NEW PHILADELPHIA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Philadelphia, July 08 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter announced his nine appointees to the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations at a press conference in City Hall today. The Mayor appointed: Rev. James Allen, Rabbi Rebecca Alpert, Regina Austin, Fernando Chang-Muy, Tom Earle, Cynthia Figueroa, Chukri Khorchid, Nick Torres and Kay Kyungsun Yu. Rev. Allen will continue to serve as the Chair of the Commission.

“The members of the Commission are a truly impressive group, bringing tremendous broad-based professional expertise and diverse personal experiences,” said Mayor Nutter. “I am thrilled that we have been able to bring together such a strong group to help us achieve our goal of revitalizing the Commission and further expanding its role and programs in advocating against discrimination, prejudice and violence.”

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations is the City agency that enforces civil rights laws and deals with all matters of inter-group conflict within the city. It was established in 1951 under the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter and is mandated by the Charter to enforce the Philadelphia Fair Practices Ordinance which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and the delivery of City services. The Commission is driven by the basic, guiding mission of protecting civil rights, preventing discrimination, and encouraging citizens to embrace the diversity that makes Philadelphia truly special and unique.

Last month, Mayor Nutter appointed Rue Landau to serve as the Executive Director of the Commission. “Rue Landau will be working closely with Reverend Allen and the members of the Commission and I look forward to the great work that they will accomplish together, alongside citizens across the city and our many community partners,” said Mayor Nutter.

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Mayor Nutter thanked the six outgoing members of the Commission for their service.

Members serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and receive \$100 per meeting, not to exceed \$10,000 annually.

Biographies:

Reverend James Allen is the pastor of Vine Memorial Baptist Church in West Philadelphia. Reverend Allen will continue to serve as the Chair of the Commission.

Rabbi Rebecca Alpert is Associate Professor of Religion and Women's Studies at Temple University.

Regina Austin is the William A. Schnader Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. She is a leading authority on economic discrimination and minority legal feminism.

Fernando Chang-Muy is the Thomas O'Boyle Lecturer in Law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, where he teaches Refugee Law and Policy. He also lectures on Immigration and Social Work, and on organizational effectiveness, at the Graduate School of Social Policy and Practice.

Tom Earle is the CEO of Liberty Resources, Inc., a non-profit, Consumer driven organization that advocates and promotes Independent Living for persons with disabilities.

Cynthia Figueroa is the Executive Director of Women Against Abuse.

Chukri Khorchid is the founder and director of the School Board of Al-Aqsa Islamic Academy, the largest Islamic school in Philadelphia. He is also the Founder and Board member of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia.

Nicholas Torres is the President of Congreso, a non-profit organization that strives to strengthen Latino communities through social, economic, education, and health services; leadership development; and advocacy.

Kay Kyungsun Yu is a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, where she is a member of the Commercial Litigation Practice Group and the ERISA and Employment Litigation Practice Group. She is the president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley for 2008.

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