

FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2025147

RE: CONFIRMING REAPPOINTMENTS
TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Legislators GARITO, MC HOUL, D'AQUANNI, and GORMAN offers the following and moves its adoption:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2016223, the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission was established, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2016224, the membership of such Commission was fixed at fourteen members; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforementioned Resolution, the County Executive and the Chairman of the Legislature are each authorized to appoint seven (7) members to the Commission, and

WHEREAS, all fourteen (14) appointments shall be subject to Legislative approval, and

WHEREAS, one reappointment by the County Executive is due to expire on September 30, 2025: Gwendolyn Higgins, and

WHEREAS, two reappointments by the Chair to the Legislature are due to expire on September 30, 2025, and they are: Neelanjana Ray and Jennifer Young, and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and the Chairman of the Legislature reappoint the following individuals, to the Commission to fill each appropriate term, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the reappointment of the following individuals, by the County Executive and the Chairman of the Legislature, to serve without compensation, is hereby confirmed:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE REAPPOINTMENT:

TERM:

Gwendolyn Higgins
10 Cedar Pond Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

10/1/25 to 9/30/28

CHAIRMAN REAPPOINTMENTS:

Neelanjana Ray
12 Carmel Heights
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Jennifer Young
14 Knoll Road
Fishkill, NY 12524

CA-123-25
CRC/mar/rjw
G-0602
09/10/25
Fiscal Impact: Attached.

TERM:

10/1/25 to 9/30/28

10/1/25 to 9/30/28

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

ss:

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess, have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 14th day of October 2025, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 14th day of October 2025.



LEIGH WAGER, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

SUE SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



A. GREGG PULVER
ASSISTANT COUNTY
EXECUTIVE

DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

To: Sue Serino, County Executive

From: A. Gregg Pulver, Assistant County Executive

Date: September 4th, 2025

Subject: The Reappointment of Jennifer Young, Gwendolyn R. Higgins, and
Neelanjana Ray to the Commission on Human Rights

Please find a resolution request to reappoint Jennifer Young, Gwendolyn R. Higgins, and Neelanjana Ray to the Commission on Human Rights.

- Jennifer Young has years of experience in advocacy and community service. She is the co-founder of *Be A Friend Project Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. Jennifer has also collaborated extensively with foster care agencies across New York State, providing life skills education to youth and organizing training sessions and support groups for foster parents.
- Gwendolyn R. Higgins, a retired schoolteacher, has an ability to engage with sensitive topics—such as race, discrimination, and interpersonal relationships—makes her a valuable asset to the Commission.
- Neelanjana Ray offers a global perspective shaped by her upbringing in India and professional experience across three continents. Her passion for inclusion and equity, combined with her multicultural background, has brought fresh insights and broadened the Commission's approach to human rights issues.

Please consider the above candidates for the Commission on Human Rights.

Sincerely,

A. Gregg Pulver,
Assistant County Executive