FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

RESOLUTION NO. 2025147

RE: CONFIRMING REAPPOINTMENTS
TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Legislators GARITO, HOUSTON, MC HOUL, D'AQUANNI, GORMAN, and KAUL 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:	TERM:
Neelanjana Ray 12 Carmel Heights Wappingers Falls, NY 12590	10/1/25 to 9/30/28
Jennifer Young 14 Knoll Road Fishkill, NY 12524	10/1/25 to 9/30/28

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

APPROVED
Sue Serino
SUSAN J. SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Date 10/16/25

STATE OF NEW YORK
ss:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

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.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SEAL

Leigh Wager

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

Family and Human Services Committee Roll Call

District	*Name*	*Yes*	*No*
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt*	Absent	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston*	✓	
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek*		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith*		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins*		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni	Absent	
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli	Absent	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney	Absent	
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul (VC)		
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Garito (C)		

Present: 8
Absent: 4
Vacant: 0

Resolution: ✓
Motion: ___

Total : 8 Yes
Abstentions: 0

0 No

2025147 CONFIRMING REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 9, 2025

Roll Call Sheets

District	Last Name	YES	NO
District 7 - Hyde Park and Pleasant Valley	Truitt	✓	
District 25 - Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley & Millbrook	Houston		
District 3 - LaGrange	Polasek		
District 16 - Fishkill and Beacon	Valdés Smith		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Atkins		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Gorman		
District 2 - LaGrange, Pleasant Valley & Town of Poughkeepsie	Travelpiece		
District 4 - Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie	Lawler		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	D'Aquanni		
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Kaul		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Brendli	Absent	
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson	Absent	
District 11 - Clinton, Pleasant Valley, and Rhinebeck	Kearney		
District 12 - East Fishkill	Metzger		
District 13 - East Fishkill and Wappinger	Paoloni	Absent	
District 14 - Wappinger and Town of Poughkeepsie	Versaci	Absent	
District 15 - Wappinger	Faust		
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	McHoul		
District 18 - City of Beacon and Fishkill	Page	Absent	
District 19 - North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan & Red Hook	Drago		
District 20 - Red Hook, Tivoli, and Rhinebeck	Munn		
District 21 - East Fishkill	Caswell		
District 22 - Beekman and Union Vale	Garito		
District 23 - Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Rolison	Absent	
District 24 - Dover and Pawling	House		

Present: 19 **Resolution:** ✓ **Total :** 19 0

Absent: 6 **Motion:** ____ **Yes** **No**

Vacant: 0 **Abstentions:** 0

2025147 CONFIRMING REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 14, 2025