



Council Business Meeting

Date: December 19, 2023

Agenda Item	Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee Appointments	
From	Alissa Kolodzinski	City Recorder
Contact	recorder@ashland.or.us , 541-488-5307	
Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

Confirm Mayor Graham’s recommendations for the appointment of the following committee members to the Social Equity & Racial Justice Advisory Committee:

- Allison Mendel for a term ending 4/30/2026.
- Neeta Singh for a term ending 4/30/2026.
- John Tyler for a term ending 4/30/2026.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) Chapter 2.20.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is confirmation by the City Council of the Mayor’s appointment to the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee.

FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

N/A

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

I move to approve the Mayor’s recommendations for the appointments of the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee for terms ending 4/30/2026.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Application – Mendel
- Attachment 2: Application – Singh
- Attachment 3: Application – Tyler



From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [Dorinda Cottle](#); [City Recorder](#)
Subject: Application for Committee or Commission Submitted
Date: Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:08:23 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Name: **Allison Mendel**

Committee or Commission interested in: **Social Equity and Racial Justice**

Occupation : **Retired**

Educational background: **BA in Psychology Occidental College BA in Russian U.C. Irvine J.D. U.C. Davis School of Law Numerous continuing legal education classes on discrimination and civil rights**

Related Experience: **I practiced law for 35 years in Alaska. I was primarily a divorce lawyer but I spent considerable time on civil rights issues, including employment discrimination and gay rights. I was the attorney who first won marriage rights for same-sex couples in Alaska. I had two other significant gay-rights wins in the Alaska Supreme Court. I also did political organizing and ran a campaign. I presented many continuing legal education programs, including one on transgender rights. I also worked on Indian Child Welfare Act cases. I owned a boutique law firm for many years and practiced diverse hiring, promotion, and retention. I also founded the Alaska Association of Collaborative Professionals, a group engaging in collaborative problem-solving for family and other issues. I have sat on many boards and commissions, including Alaska Legal Services, the Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors, the National LGBT Bar Association, and the Girl Scouts of Alaska. I continue to sit as Finance Committee Chair for the Girl Scouts of Alaska. I sing with the Rogue Valley Peace Choir, where social equity is one of our missions. I served on the City of Ashland's search committee for the city manager**

Interests: **Social Equity and Racial Justice have been a focus of my career from a very early time. I have been involved in numerous groups and efforts dealing with these issues. I would be very interested in serving on these issues in Ashland. I have observed that many of Ashland's older and retired residents are not very aware of, or experienced in dealing with, social equity issues. I think the city could do a much better job with better outreach and information-sharing. Our citizens tend to be highly opinionated and spreading actual information is critical to good decision-making. I also have a great deal of experience in collaborative processes, which might be useful.**

Availability: **I can manage my schedule to attend almost any meeting, although not Tuesday afternoons mostly.**

Additional Information : **I retired to Ashland in 2017. I have done various kinds of volunteer work since arriving, although COVID certainly slowed down the volunteer opportunities. I also raised a transgender grandchild here in Ashland when her family rejected her. I had the opportunity to sit on the search interview committee for the Ashland City Manager, which was very rewarding.**

Signature: **Allison Mendel**

From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [Dorinda Cottle; City Recorder](#)
Subject: Application for Committee or Commission Submitted
Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 4:25:36 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Name: **Neeta Singh**

Committee or Commission interested in: **Planning**



Occupation : **Self employed**

Educational background: **Masters of Business southern Oregon university, 2011**

Related Experience: **I manage 15 employees at work that I manage**

Interests: **I have some free time that I want to volunteer**

Availability: **Yes available to attend meeting regularly**

Additional Information : **I lived in ashland for last 20 years**

Signature: **Neeta Singh**

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From: [City of Ashland, Oregon](#)
To: [Dorinda Cottle; City Recorder](#)
Subject: Application for Committee or Commission Submitted
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:49:11 AM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***

Name: **John Tyler**

Committee or Commission interested in: **Social Equity and Racial Justice Committee**



Occupation : **Retired**

Educational background: **BA Marietta College Marietta Ohio 1957 LLD Un iversity of Virginia School of Law 1960 Masters in Clinical Psychology Antioch University-New England 1989**

Related Experience: **I have been involved in the planning of the Martin Luther King Day celebrations since 2010. I have co-hosted an anti-racism group in Ashland since 2019.**

Interests: **I want to help raise awareness of the racial history of this area to the Ashland community and to work to make Ashand as welcoming a community as possible.**

Availability: **I am available to attend special meetings. I prefer daytime meetings if possible.**

Additional Information : **I have lived in Ashland since 2009.**

Signature: **John B. Tyler**

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