

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Human Rights Commission

51 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0051

Physical location: 19 Union Street, Augusta, ME 04330

Phone (207) 624-6290 ▪ Fax (207) 624-8729 ▪ TTY: Maine Relay 711

www.maine.gov/mhrc

Amy M. Sneirson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Archer Hirsch
COMMISSION COUNSEL

January 29, 2015

The Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Speaker Eves and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Human Rights Commission due by February 1, 2015.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Sneirson".

Amy M. Sneirson
Executive Director



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Dear Speaker Eves and President Thibodeau:

I am pleased to provide you with the Maine Human Rights Commission's report of quasi-independent state entity activity for the preceding year, as required by 5 M.R.S. §12023. The Maine Human Rights Commission ("MHRC") is committed to ensuring that its governing body has all the information needed to oversee the MHRC's activities and expenditures responsibly.

For the 2014 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014), the MHRC reports as follows:

- A. All procurements exceeding \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived under the policies adopted pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §12022(3), including procurements exceeding \$10,000 that were made under contracts previously entered into for which competitive procurement was not required. Answer:

In 2012, the MHRC was awarded grants by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to do special projects that would affirmatively further fair housing and equal opportunity in Maine. The grants were time-limited and labor-intensive. One of the grants required the MHRC to hire contractors who already had expertise in Maine's fair housing standards and the federal Fair Housing Act; the pool of qualified persons who could do this work on a contract basis in Maine was (and is) extremely limited.

The MHRC contracted with Pine Tree Legal Assistance ("PTLA"), a legal services agency in Maine, to create online podcasts/videos of fair housing information in foreign language and American Sign Language and to share information on these new fair housing resources through newsletters, social media and outreach events. The original contract dated April 9, 2012 called for work totaling \$29,650. PTLA did much of the work, but was unable to complete all of the planned outreach work. Accordingly, the contract was amended on January 8, 2013 to reduce the amount paid to \$12,426. The MHRC paid this amount to PTLA on March 4, 2014.

- B. All persons to whom the MHRC made contributions greater than \$1,000 and the total amount contributed to each. Answer: None.

- C. Changes made in the preceding year to the written policies and procedures required by 5 M.R.S. §12022 or to the procedures used by the MHRC to monitor compliance with those policies and procedures. Answer: None.

We believe that the MHRC is in full compliance with the spirit and letter of 5 M.R.S. §§12021-12024, and thank the Legislature for its attention to this matter. Should you or another member of the Legislature require additional information, or have a question, about the above report, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Sneirson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Amy M. Sneirson
Executive Director