

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Human Rights Commission

51 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0051

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www.maine.gov/mhrc

Amy M. Sneirson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara Archer Hirsch
COMMISSION COUNSEL

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

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, 2022.

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

Sincerely,

Amy M. Sneirson
Executive Director



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January 21, 2022

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

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 2021 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021), 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 June 2020, the MHRC was awarded a grant via federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ("the Grant"); the purpose of the Grant was to affirmatively further fair housing and equal opportunity ("FH") in Maine related to COVID-19. The Grant was time-limited, labor-intensive, and had three components: education/outreach; purchase of technology assets to support remote FH investigation work; and creation of print and multimedia resources for the public about the intersection of COVID-19, FH, and the MHRC. One portion of the Grant – creating multimedia resources – required the MHRC to hire a media content contractor with expertise in Maine's FH laws and the federal Fair Housing Act. As the pool of qualified persons who could do this work on a contract basis in Maine - and do it very quickly – was (and is) extremely limited, the State's Division of Procurement Purchases approved the MHRC's use of a sole source contract. The MHRC contracted with Helix Media Marketing, LLC, a Maine company, to create both a public service announcement and a longer webinar about FH implications from COVID-19; the project began on October 1, 2020 and called for work totaling \$12,000 to be completed by January 15, 2021. In late December 2020, the Helix contract was amended to add marketing services to promote both products created, for an additional \$2500, with work ending by February 28, 2021. The total paid to Helix under the contract was \$14,500. All Grant work was completed by June 30, 2021.

- 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 the MHRC procedures 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,



Amy M. Sneirson
Executive Director