



LINCOLN COMMISSION ON

# HUMAN RIGHTS

# 2021 Annual Report





## Who We are & What We Do

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights works to eliminate and prevent all forms of illegal discrimination, to assure and foster equal opportunity for all citizens of the City, and to act in all matters within its jurisdiction.

### Commission Background

LCHR dates back to 1966 when Lincoln voters passed [Article 10](#), an anti-discrimination and human rights amendment to the City Charter. [Title 11](#) was then added to the Lincoln Municipal Code, creating the framework to foster equal opportunity for all Lincoln residents and to prevent and respond to discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation.

Today, LCHR continues to strive to prevent, respond to, and eliminate all forms of illegal discrimination, and to assure and foster equal opportunity for all City of Lincoln community members. LCHR receives, settles, investigates, issues findings, conciliates, and holds public hearings on complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, national origin, familial status, age, ancestry, marital status, and retaliation within the City of Lincoln.

### Education & Outreach

LCHR provides community education and assistance to community groups, businesses, schools, and governmental entities for the purpose of providing education regarding legal rights and responsibilities, as well as promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging throughout Lincoln.

In response to community needs, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, LCHR has maintained a leadership role in both the [CareerLadder Project](#), including [MyCity Academy](#), and the [Tenant Assistance Project \(TAP\)](#).

Although LCHR's 2021 Civil Rights Conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wesley Hamilton, founder of [Disabled But Not Really](#), joined Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LCHR staff, and local youth scholars and artists at LCHR's [Virtual Social Justice Performance & Discussion](#) on October 21, 2021.

Wesley Hamilton will present the live keynote address at the [2022 Civil Rights Conference \(CRC2022\)](#) on April 20, 2022.

### LCHR Staff

- **Mindy Rush Chipman**  
Director
- **Rob Rowan & Chassidy Jackson-Goodwin**  
Senior Civil Rights Investigators
- **Francisca Beltran & Haefaa Hasan**  
Community Outreach Coordinators
- **Shanna Eckman & Thuyhong Le**  
Senior Office Assistants

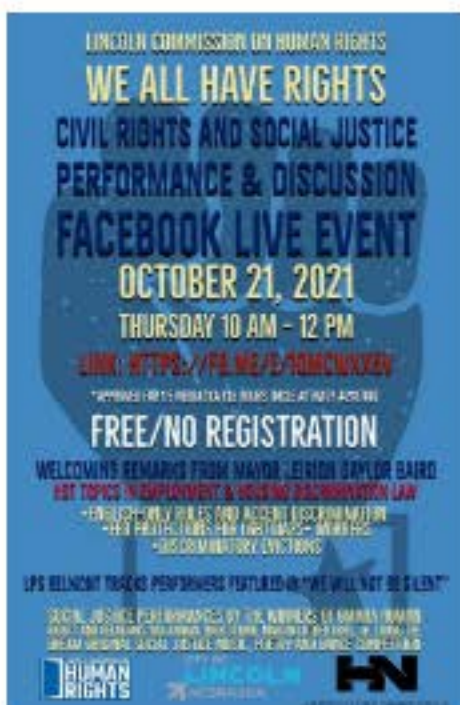
### Human Rights Commissioners

The LCHR Commission is a diverse board of community members appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. They typically meet the last Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City/County Building to review and issue determinations on the cases presented to them.

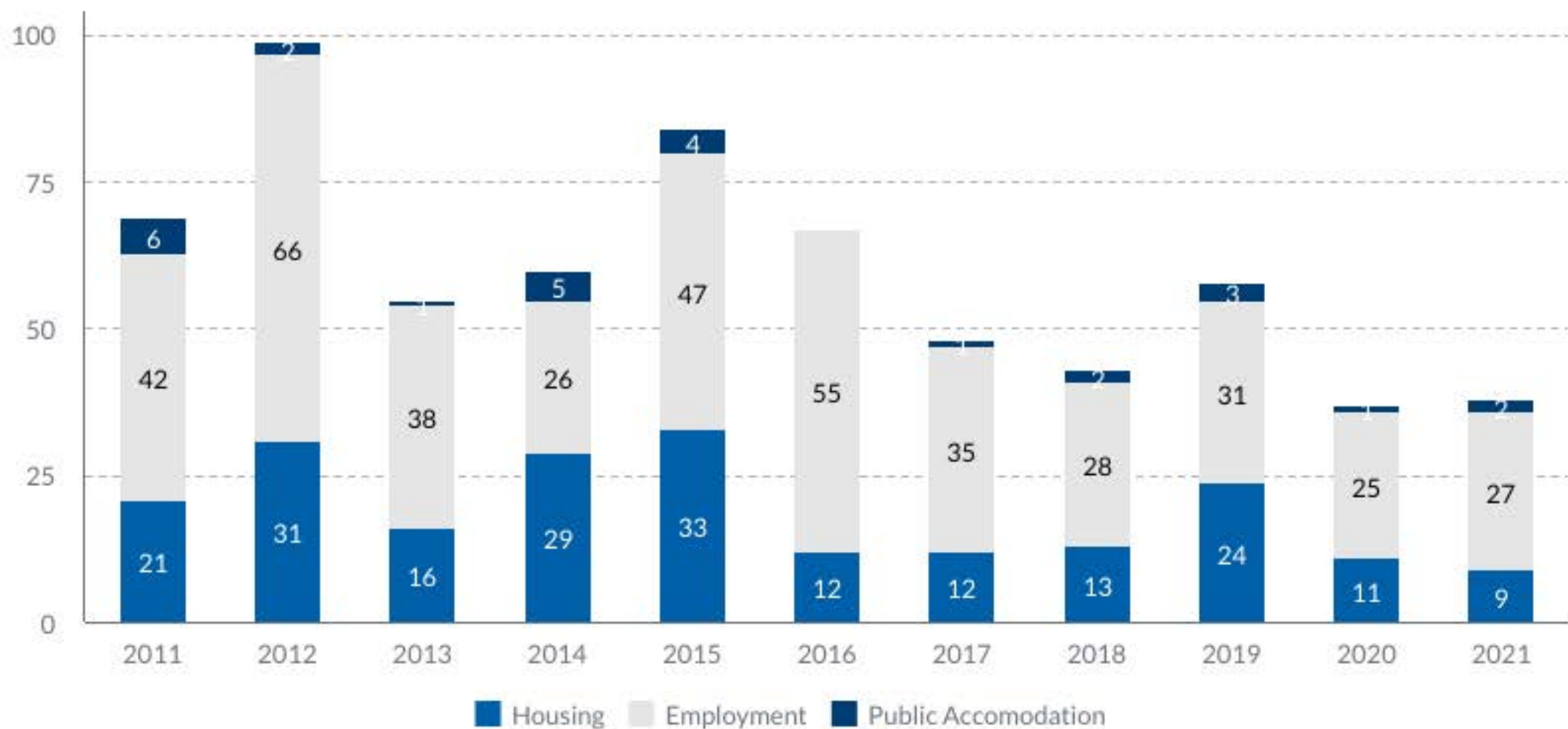


- **Kevin Abourezk**, Managing Editor, Indianz.com, Co-Chair of Indian Center
- **Dr. Sheri Blok** Chair of Humanities / Speech Instructor, Southeast Community College-Lincoln
- **Carlos Garcia (Chair)**, Financial Aid Technician, Southeast Community College
- **Rose Godinez**, Legal And Policy Counsel, ACLU of Nebraska
- **Dr. Emira Ibrahimasic**, Assistant Director and Assistant Professor of Practice, Global Studies Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **Precious Loving-Afuh (Vice Chair)**, Education Specialist, Educational Talent Search Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- **Alyssa Martin**, Legal Counsel for Tax and Renewable Energy, Nelnet, Co-Chair of Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Committee
- **Jolene McCulley**, Owner and Operator, Orenda Entrepreneur Services
- **Davetta Nelson**, Specialized Probation Officer, Nebraska Probation, Lancaster County Nebraska
- **Terry Werner**, National Association of Social Workers

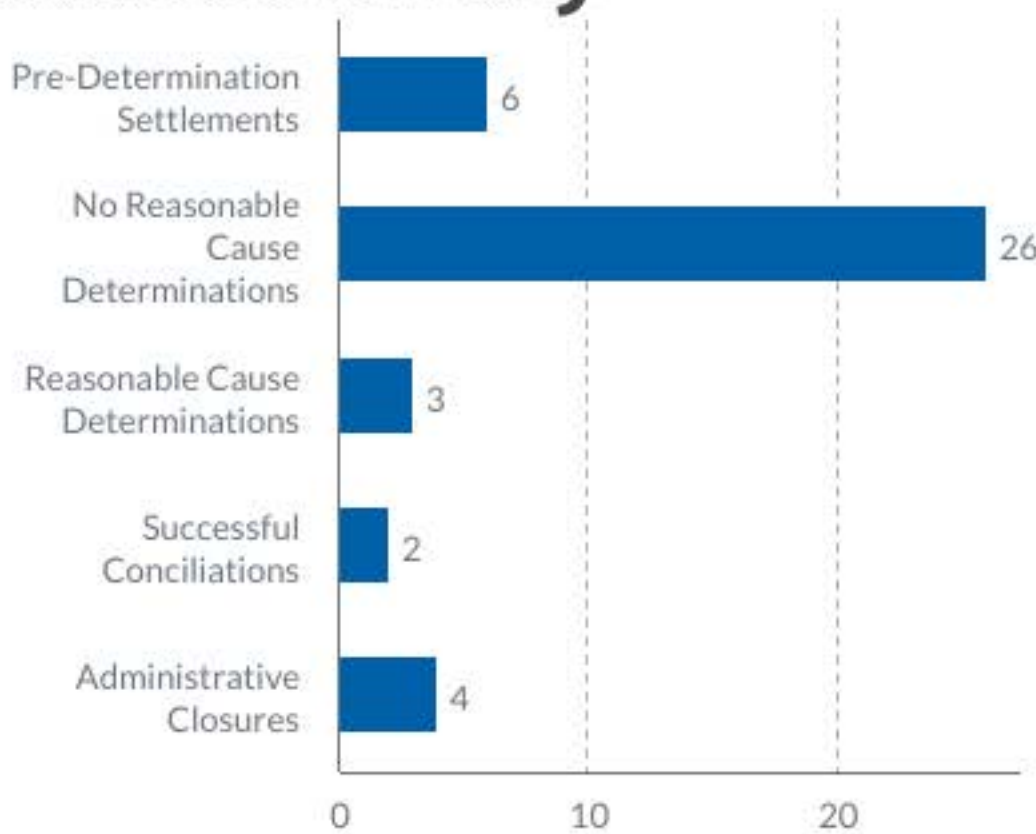
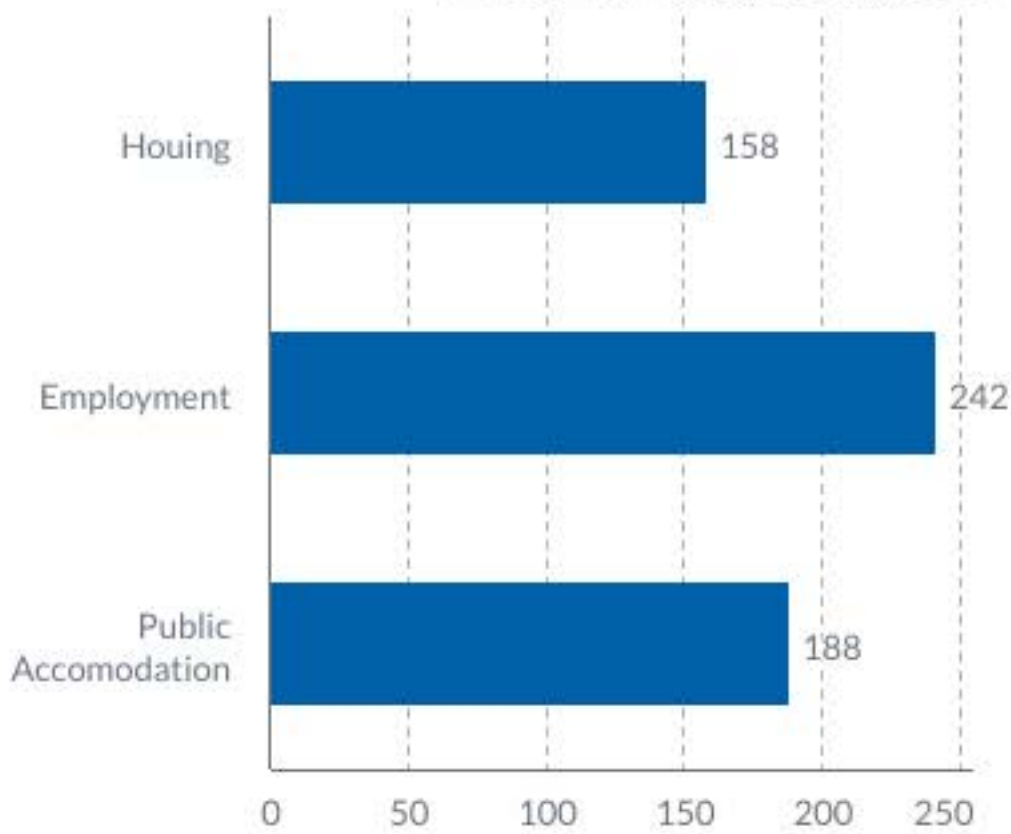
For more information about what the Human Rights Commissioners do, or to apply to become one, please visit [humanrights.lincoln.ne.gov](https://humanrights.lincoln.ne.gov).



# Case Filing Statistics 2011 - 2021



## 2021 Closure Case Summary



Average Number of Days from Case Filing to Closure

Type of Case Closure

"The Commission is well respected and effective in protecting and defending civil rights in our community. We also appreciate their leadership and hard work to ensure our community values of equity, inclusion, diversity, and belonging are fully realized for all residents. We are fortunate to have worked in collaboration with the Commission on advocacy and community education opportunities regarding a host of important topics. These events are always well attended and informative.

Additionally we frequently refer matters, including allegations of housing discrimination, to their highly capable and enthusiastic team. Our experience is that the Commission is professional, compassionate, and addresses matters within their jurisdiction in an appropriate and timely manner."

*Danielle Conrad, Executive Director  
ACLU of Nebraska*

