



**City of Winooski**  
Vermont's Opportunity City

27 West Allen Street  
Winooski Vermont 05404  
802 655 6410  
[winooski.vt.gov](http://winooski.vt.gov)

## **The Winooski Commission for Inclusion & Belonging**

The City Council, under its Charter authority in §19-602, hereby establishes the Advisory Commission for Inclusion and Belonging, within the City of Winooski. This group is a policy advising group to the City Council. Its members serve to advise the current Council, by way of the city Commissions, on implementing best practices for Equity, Inclusion & belonging as a priority outlined in the Master Plan.

The Commission's mission is the following:

**"As a city, we recognize that as human beings, we all intersect in multiple identities drawn from our differences in race, culture & ethnicity and that these differences are essential and valued parts of an inclusive society. We acknowledge that multiple perspectives are an asset to the City of Winooski & we will work to ensure that the people informing the decision-making process reflect our diversity. We aspire to continuously adapt to our ever-changing community & to be a city where all people are welcome & feel that they belong."**

This commission operates within the laws of the State of Vermont, the Winooski City Charter and observes Vermont's Open Meeting Laws. The Advisory has no supervisory authority over City staff, budgetary authority, or authority to give permission on behalf of the City to outside groups.

The commission will meet as a separate group every other month. Membership shall be comprised of five (5) voting members and two (2) alternate members each appointed by the City Council. The structure of the commission chair will be determined by commission members once the group is established. Training & education on the structure of Winooski municipal government & policy making process will be provided for all commission members every six months. Members shall serve for two-year staggered terms and may be monetarily compensated at a rate determined by City Council.

All regular members will be placed as Inclusion & Belonging Ambassadors on each established city Commission, separate from Inclusion & Belonging (1 ambassador per commission). The Inclusion & belonging commission will determine ambassador placement. Each separate commission may determine whether the I&B ambassador position will be a voting member. The role of the ambassador on each separate commission will be to serve as a policy advisor & conduit of information for progress and updates on equity related goals. The City of Winooski seeks to appoint members that are representative of the community as a whole. Given the policy role in advising the Council, a commitment to principles and best practices of equity and inclusion are paramount.

Applications for appointment shall be reviewed in partnership between Commission chairs and support and guidance from the Equity Director. Commission chairs will then select a finalist to present to council for appointment. Each ambassador, in partnership with each separate commission, will have the ability to determine voting membership. Upon the come City Council shall appoint three (3) two-year members and two (2) one-year members in order to establish the stagger. The Equity Director will be the staff person on the commission and a Council Liaison will be appointed on an annual basis by the City Council. The City Staff and Council members are not voting members of the commission.

Established on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

**Winooski City Council**



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**Mayor Kristine Lott**

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**Deputy Mayor Jim Duncan**



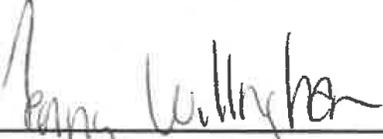
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**Councilor Bryn Oakleaf**



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**Councilor Aurora Hurd**



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**Councilor Thomas Renner**



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**Jenny Willingham, City Clerk**