

City and County of San Francisco  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Monday, August 4, 2015**

**Contact: Veronica Garcia, Policy Analyst, (415) 252-2513**

**Policy and Social Justice Division**

**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE 2015 HRC HERO AWARD HONOREES COMMEMORATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES AND THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT.**

**(San Francisco, CA)** -- The San Francisco Human Rights Commission ("HRC") and its Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) are pleased to announce the recipients of the Commission's annual Hero Awards. This year's Hero Awards commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Marches and the 1965 Voting Rights Act by recognizing organizations and individuals who advance voting rights in San Francisco.

The HRC and the EAC put out a public call for nominations for individuals, organizations and students to recognize the contributions of courageous organizations and individuals who demonstrate the resilience and dignity of the voting rights movement.

The awards presentation will take place on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act into law.

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## **HRC “HERO” Award for Individual Leadership in Civil Rights**

- **Faith Petric** (*Post-Humous*)

Faith Craig Petric (1915-2013) played a critical role in sustaining grassroots, noncommercial folk music in America for more than half a century. Through her music, she personally engaged with pressing social issues, from trade unionism and civil rights to feminism, pacifism and environmentalism. She and her folk music club played a benefit and raised money for herself and a group from San Francisco to head to Selma for the march.

- **Maxine Anderson**

Ms. Anderson has been a long time voting rights advocate, whose passion and dedication to her work has made real impact in San Francisco. For over ten years, Maxine has served on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco, in a variety of roles. Currently, Ms. Anderson serves as the Advocacy Co-Chair for the League and spearheads recommendations regarding local ballot measures, and ensures advocacy efforts, especially as they relate to voter rights, have the best interest of all of San Franciscans at heart.

## **HRC “HERO” Award for Organizations Advancing Civil Rights**

- **UCSF White Coats for Black Lives**

The University of California San Francisco White Coats for Black Lives (WC4BL) organization is a coalition of underrepresented minority medical students and allies. The WC4BL movement has sparked important conversations and are improving medical curriculum by shedding more light on how racism disproportionately affects health outcomes within communities of color. WC4BL’s efforts influence the Healthcare system by inspiring their peers and health institutions to look at social injustice as a health issue and to provide guidance on how these institutions can better contribute to the health of underserved communities.

- **League of Women Voters of San Francisco**

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco (LWVSF) has fought since 1920 to improve our system of government. LWVSF neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, but instead provides non-partisan information so that all voters can make informed decisions on election day. The League is a grassroots organization, working at the national, state, and local levels. It was founded on the principles of integrity, transparency, and non-partisanship, and these same ideals guide their work today.

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## **HRC “HERO” Award for Students Leadership in Advancing Civil Rights**

- **Leya Elias**  
Junior student at St. Ignatius College Preparatory school summer intern with Project Pull, a project of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.
- **Chrislyn Earle**  
Senior student at Lowell High School; summer intern with the Community Safety Initiative Program, a project of Mo’ Magic.
- **Tony Grandberry**  
Senior student at Phillip and Sala Burton High School; Youth organizer with Youth Making A Change, a program of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, summer intern with the Community Safety Initiative, a project of Mo’ Magic,

Congratulations to these individuals and organizations for fostering positive change in and throughout the City’s diverse and multicultural communities.

Honorees will be recognized during the San Francisco Human Rights Commission Subcommittee’s **Special Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and Selma to Montgomery Marches on Thursday, August 6, 2015 @ 5:30 pm - City Hall Room 250.**

For more information on the HRC “HERO” Awards or the honorees, please contact, Veronica Garcia at [Veronica.Garcia@sfgov.org](mailto:Veronica.Garcia@sfgov.org) or by calling the HRC Office at 252-2513.

*The Human Rights Commission (HRC) works to increase equality, eradicate discrimination, and to protect human rights for all people.*