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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HONORS
COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE**

Annual HERO Awards Ceremony will recognize organizations, students and individuals who have advanced the mission of the Human Rights Commission.

(San Francisco, CA) -- The San Francisco Human Rights Commission's ("HRC") Equity Advisory Committee ("EAC") announces a call for nominations for the 2016 Human Rights Commission "Hero Awards" recognizing students, individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions in organizing communities for justice.

With these awards, the HRC honors individuals and organizations who, through sustained advocacy and community organizing, advance social justice in San Francisco's diverse and multicultural communities. In addition, the HRC hopes to engage the City on the collective importance of recent civil rights successes and challenges in San Francisco. The awards will recognize honorees in three categories:

The HRC HERO Award for Organizations. The HRC seeks to recognize organizations and programs that, through community organizing and advocacy, secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people. Organizations and programs of all sizes, experiences, and levels of development will be considered.

The HRC HERO Award for Students. The HRC seeks to honor San Francisco's young leaders. Outstanding grade school, middle school, high school, college or post-graduate level students will be honored for sharing their experiences and ideas on community organizing in San Francisco. Interested students are encouraged to submit a short essay (please see application for more details).

The HRC HERO Award for Individuals. The HRC seeks to recognize individuals for their outstanding leadership in and contributions to organizing San Francisco's diverse communities for justice.

Submission instructions and eligibility information can be found on the applications. The deadline to submit an application/nomination form is **Friday, July 1, 2016 at 5 p.m.**, and will then be reviewed by the selection committee. Applications/nomination forms may be found at: <http://www.sf-hrc.org>.

Awardees will be honored at an HRC meeting on **Thursday, July 28, 2016** where they will have an opportunity to share their work with the HRC and public. Honorees will also have their organization or individual names displayed on the HRC website.

To submit an application/nomination form or for more information, please contact Veronica Garcia at veronica.garcia@sfgov.org.