

# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date December 8, 2008

Agenda Item No. 20
Roll Call No. <u>08-</u>
Communication No. 08-716

Submitted by: Rudy Simms, Human

**Rights Director** 

### **AGENDA HEADING:**

Approval of contract between the Des Moines Human Rights Commission and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the contract between the Des Moines Human Rights Commission and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. The purpose of this agreement is to assist the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in resolving complaints alleging discrimination and to reduce case backlogs without compromising the quality or the integrity of the system by having the Des Moines Human Rights Commission handle the intake and resolution of complaints. The criteria and parameters set by the agreement are designed to ensure an efficient, effective, and coordinated State-Local civil rights enforcement program and partnership. Partial reimbursement for the Des Moines Human Rights Commission work will be paid by the state through the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: Revenue of less than \$1,000

Funding Source: FY08-09 Operating Budget, 490160, GE001HRI010000, page 190

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Iowa Code section 216.19 states that a commission of local government and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission shall co-operate in the sharing of data and research, and coordinating investigations and conciliations in order to expedite claims of unlawful discrimination and eliminate needless duplication. This section also says the Iowa Civil Rights Commission may enter into cooperative agreements with any local commission to effectuate the purposes of the Iowa Civil Rights Act. Such agreements may include technical and clerical assistance and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the local commission in the performance of the commission's duties if funds are appropriated by the general assembly for this purpose.

The agreement herein in substance and reimbursement amounts is identical to those offered to other local human rights commissions around the state. The Iowa Civil Rights commission will pay \$25 for each intake completed which results in a complaint cross-filed with the Iowa Commission and transmitted to the Iowa Commission for further processing. The Iowa Commission will pay \$100 for each complaint resolution that is accepted by the Iowa Commission and is less than one year old from date of filing. If the complaint requires additional work by the Iowa Commission, then payment will be reduced to \$25.

The Iowa commission will pay \$75 for each complaint over one year old, but less than 2 ½ years old as of March 1, 2009. If additional work is needed the payment is reduced to \$25. For each complaint over 2 ½ years old as of March 1, 2009 the Iowa Commission will pay \$25. For complaints that have a probable cause finding, the Iowa Commission will pay the full amount regardless of when submitted.

Without this contract the Des Moines Human Rights Commission would not receive any money for their work that is cross-filed with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

# **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

<u>Date</u>: February 12, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-258 & 07-259

<u>Action</u>: Authorizing execution of contracts between the City of Des Moines Human Rights Commission and the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the following: (<u>Council Communication No. 07-074</u>)

- (A) Cooperative Agreement. Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.
- (B) Memorandum of Understanding. Moved by Vlassis to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Approval by Human Rights commission anticipated at the December 16th meeting.

## ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Similar agreements anticipated annually.

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