


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: <b>19-256</b>	Meeting: <b>June 3, 2019</b>
	Agenda Item: <b>53</b>	Roll Call: <b>19-0922</b>
	Submitted by: <b>Joshua V. Barr, Civil and Human Rights Director</b>	

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approving amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 62 Human Rights Ordinance.

### SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Municipal Code Chapter 62 Human Rights Ordinance is being amended to include the “Source of Income” as a protected class. Additionally, the legal department identified other areas where protected classes were inadvertently left off and have now been included in locations where they should have always been.

### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Chapter 62 of the Des Moines Municipal Code (“The Human Rights Ordinance”) enumerates illegal discriminatory housing and municipal practices and establishes the penalties and consequences for the same.
- There has been concern that the sources of funds used by renters and buyers of housing have been used by some property owners or managers as a basis for screening or denying the ability to purchase or rent appropriate housing. This screening is now being defined by this action as an illegal, discriminatory practice.
- Sources of Income is fully defined in the revisions, and means any sources of income or support received directly or indirectly on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing to purchase or rent housing. It includes any pension, annuity, child support, or alimony, or any tax supported federal, state or local funds, including social security, supplemental security income temporary assistance, general relief, food stamps, unemployment compensation, housing choice voucher rent subsidies or similar programs.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 24, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-1278](#)

Action: Items regarding the Civil and Human Rights Commission:

- (A) Approving amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 62, Sec. 62-41 and to the Civil & Human Rights Commission rules and regulations, relating to the establishment, appointment, composition and terms of the Civil and Human Rights Commission. (Council Communication No. 17-564) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

Board: Civil & Human Rights Commission

Date: May 9, 2019

Resolution: N/A

Action: Commission moved to pass the ordinance with the additional recommendations to the definition of Source of Income. Schabel motioned, Knox seconded. Pass 6-0.

\*The Civil & Human Rights Commission will review and approve the minutes with the above action at their next meeting.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

The ordinance is set to go in effect on September 1, 2019, if passed by the City Council. Between the passage of this ordinance and its effective date, the Commission will educate the community on what Source of Income protected class means to the City of Des Moines and how it will be enforced.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).