

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

19

Date April 22, 2013

Communication regarding an update on Commission Activities of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission (DMHRC) and request for a joint meeting with the Mayor and City Council Members.

Moved by _____ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
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TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

_____ Mayor

_____ City Clerk



Commissioners

David Drake, DO., Char
Peggy Dandy, Vice Chair
Michael Bowser, Secretary
Gabriel Carnes
Margo Jones
Christine Manbeck
Nancy Trotter

Staff

Rudolph Simms, Jr. Director
Vern M. Ostrander, Sr. HRS
Mikel J. Johnson, M.S., HRS
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April 16, 2013

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council of Des Moines, Iowa

Re: Update on Commission Activities and Request for Joint Meeting

The DMHRC held a retreat last October. From that retreat a Task Force was formed to review the discussion and to identify areas where the DMHRC should and can direct our efforts as charged under the Municipal Code. We focused on three areas:

- understanding the operation of the intake system, and the relationships with HUD, the Iowa League of Civil Rights organizations, and the financial flow within the Des Moines department;
- identifying current outreach and education efforts;
- preparing for the annual Joint Meeting with City Council.

In the last year, DMHRC has had about a 2/3 turnover of the Commission members. We are now stabilized with a full contingent. We have had a great deal of lively discussion about moving effectively and efficiently from strictly a passive group to an active, participatory, yet still advisory-to-City-Council, commission. I believe all Commission members are committed to this change.

The Task Force continues to review the Code and how the staff is fulfilling both their, and the Commission's, responsibilities. We are close to completing a report of this review. We also have identified the need for short-term strategic planning with an outside, trained facilitator to help set direction for both staff and Commission, and to establish baselines and measurable outcomes to help us with the Annual Review of the Director. The Staff has prepared an annual report to present to you also.

We would like to meet with you sometime after May 9th to present our review and our report. We anticipate that with a short-term planning process completed over the next several months, we can commit to being back on schedule with our Annual Meeting, Report to Council, and Review of the Director by Fall, 2013.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Manbeck
Christine Manbeck
Task Force Chair

Human Rights Commission Webpage:

<http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/HumanRights/Pages/default.aspx>