

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: August 13, 2012
Item No.: 10.b

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Human Right Commission Meeting with the City Council

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Human Rights Commission meets with the City Council to review activities and accomplishments and to discuss the upcoming year's work plan and issues that may be considered.

ACTIVITIES:

- o Civic Engagement Task Force
- o Project 515 Forum last fall to discuss the 515 state laws and regulations which discriminate against gay & lesbian families.
- o Took a Public Position Against the Marriage Amendment in a public and transparent manner involving Roseville residents
- o Co-sponsored two forums on Elder Abuse.
- o Organized 2012 Student Essay Contest and Reception
- o Youth Commissioners were more involved—and productive-- in our activities this past year; developed a Facebook page
- o Enacted Commission Rules and Procedures and are near finalizing By-Laws as required by City Code
- o Developed Parameters or Guidelines for future programming and criteria for cosponsoring programs of other groups.
- o Formed a working group (Collaborating Commissions Project) with four other north Ramsey County suburbs to share resources and assist each other in our human rights activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- o We're more organized with an active committee structure and active participation of commissioners outside of the monthly meetings.
- o We've developed more of an esprit-de-corps as a group, recognizing our individual strengths and limitations and working collaboratively..
- o We're focused on issues which affect the diverse Roseville Community and therefore the Commission appears more relevant to more Roseville residents
- o We are doing more of our own press relations, publicity, and outreach.
- o Our programs are less 'show & tell' and more participant involvement, and we are actively involving Roseville residents in program planning and execution.
- o And hopefully we've raised the awareness of human rights issues a notch among the Roseville community.

37 **WORK PLAN ITEMS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR:**

- 38 o Reassessment of Student Essay Contest Procedures and Scoring
- 39 o Forum on Religious Perspectives on Homosexuality and Impact on Human Rights Issues
- 40 o Educational Forum on the Voter ID Constitutional Amendment
- 41 o Youth Commissioners Activities at Roseville High School
- 42 o Increased youth engagement by means of monthly gatherings to discuss human rights
- 43 issues with Roseville youth.
- 44 o Finalize By-Laws and achieve transparency and compliance with the Minnesota Open
- 45 Meeting Law.
- 46 o Finalize the Civic Engagement Task Force's Report and refer to the City Council.
- 47 o Involve more Roseville residents in the Commission's human rights activities.

48
49 **QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:**

- 50 o Uniform Commission Code in reference to
 - 51 o Ability to Make Decisions under City Code;
 - 52 o By-Laws;
 - 53 o Clarification of our role as found in existing city code; and
 - 54 o Clarification of our role in city governance under the civic engagement duties
 - 55 added in 2009.
- 56 o Relationship to the City Council and Staff in our unique role as a 'Commission without a
- 57 Department but with a Big Responsibility'; and
- 58 o Reappointment of Youth Commissioners and determination of number of youth
- 59 representatives

60
Prepared by: Carolyn Curti, Staff Liaison