

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: April 27, 2009
Item No.: 13.c

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Ordinance Change to Expand Focus of Human Rights Commission

BACKGROUND

The Imagine Roseville 2025 visioning process produced goals and strategies for the community. There were several common themes identified by the Steering Committee as noted in their presentation of the Final Report to the City Council. Two of those themes were Diversity (people, ideas, development, revenue) and Sense of Community (neighborhoods, engagement opportunities, facilities and gathering places, open and responsive government).

Of the 15 goals, the first five goals identify with enhancing neighborhoods and embracing our community's diversity. These goals include:

- Roseville is a welcoming community that appreciates differences and fosters diversity
- Roseville is a desirable place to live, work and play
- Roseville has a strong and inclusive sense of community
- Roseville residents are invested in their community
- Roseville is a safe community

The recently completed Roseville 2030 Comprehensive Plan update confirmed and elaborated on these same goals and proposed various objectives for their achievement.

Some of the Imagine Roseville 2025 strategies that relate specifically to the themes of diversity and community are:

- Educate community members on the diversity issues, and provide means to repair damage caused by prejudice; convey a clear message that intolerance is not welcome in our community
- Promote ethnic, celebrations and festivals
- Foster collaboration between city and community-based organizations, groups, and nonprofits
- Encourage development of neighborhood groups, organizations, and forums in order to provide residents with a sense of belonging

In addition the 2030 Comprehensive Plan echoed the IR 2025 goals including the appreciation of and the contributions that diversity brings to the community. Their goals included:

- Provide a wide variety of housing options in order to retain and attract a diverse mix of people and family types with varying economic statuses, ages, and abilities.
- Maintain and enhance Roseville as a community with strong, desirable, and livable neighborhoods.
- Encourage the development of neighborhood identities that build a sense of community and foster neighborhood interaction, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

The City Council is committed to making Roseville a more welcoming community, but that also requires leadership from residents. At a recent Human Rights Commission sponsored community forum, nearly 100 attendees shared ideas about this topic. It is important that the City tap this resource, get those (and other) citizens engaged and increase our efforts to build neighborhoods and communities of interest around our common interests and goals.

Staff believe that the Human Rights Commission could effectively help to implement the Imagine Roseville 2025 goals. We want to expand the Commission's focus to increase the sense of community by fostering understanding and relationships among residents and by ensuring that our city government and its activities, programs and services are accessible, understandable, and responsive by to all.

The Roseville Human Rights Commission was established in 1968. Over the years, the Human Rights Commission has been an important part the Roseville's government, advocating for human rights issues and addressing specific conditions or situations. Those goals and mission of the Commission will not change with the added responsibilities.

Expanding the Human Rights Commission's mission gives the City a greater opportunity to achieve the Imagine Roseville and the new 2030 Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. It would support greater diversity awareness and cultural competence and help the City fully engage all of our residents to feel and be a vital part of our community. From facilitating community activism and activities, to helping residents to identify and establish neighborhoods organizations and communications networks to hosting cultural fairs to celebrate our diversity, this new focus could be a catalyst of change in the community.

Although only one measure of a community's diversity, recent demographic statistics indicate a growing ethnic diversity in Roseville's population. Based on 2005-2007 statistics, the US Census Bureau reported that:

- 10% of Roseville residents are foreign born.
- 12% speak a language other than English at home. The most commonly spoken language was Spanish.
- 27% of residents reported that they did not speak English "very well."

The 2000 Census, reported that 10.5% of residents were some other race than white. In 2005, it is estimated that 14.7% of residents are some other race than white.

At its April meeting the Human Rights Commission unanimously approved the suggested

81 changes to the Human Rights Commission ordinance.

82 **POLICY OBJECTIVE**

83 To further the goals and objectives of the Imagine Roseville and the 2030 Comprehensive Plan
84 to help build strong neighborhoods and to foster greater appreciation, respect and understanding
85 of the diversity of our community.

86 **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

87 No additional financial impacts from existing advisory commission structure.

88 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

89 Adopt ordinance expanding the focus of the Human Rights Commission.

90 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

91 Adopt ordinance expanding the focus of the Human Rights Commission to further the Imagine
92 Roseville and the 2030 Comprehensive Plan goals and strategies to help build strong
93 neighborhoods and to foster greater appreciation, respect and understanding of the diversity of
94 our community,

95

Prepared by: Bill Malinen, City Manager

Attachments: A: Proposed Ordinance

1 **City of Roseville**
2 **ORDINANCE NO.**
3

4 **AN ORDINANCE**
5 **AMENDING TITLE 2, SECTION 204**
6 **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**
7 **EXPANDING FOCUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**
8

9 THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE ORDAINS:

10 SECTION 1: Title 2, Section 204 of the Roseville City Code is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 **204.01: POLICY:**

13 It is hereby declared that it is the public policy of the city to fulfill its responsibility as a partner
14 of the state department of human rights in securing for all citizens equal opportunity in housing,
15 employment, public accommodations, public services and education, and to work consistently to
16 improve the human relations climate of the city. (Ord. 566, 2-19-1968)

17 **204.02: ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION:**

18 There is hereby established within the city a human rights commission. (Ord. 566, 2-19-1968)

19 **204.03: PURPOSE:**

20 The purpose of the commission is to secure for all citizens equal opportunity in employment,
21 housing, public accommodations, public services and education and full participation in the
22 affairs of this community by assisting the state department of human rights in implementing the
23 Minnesota Human Rights Act and by advising the City Council on long range programs to
24 improve community relations in the city. Additionally the commission will work to increase the
25 sense of community by reaching out to all members of the community and ensuring that our city
26 government and its activities, programs and services are accessible understandable and
27 responsive by all. (Ord. 566, 2-19-1968; amd. 1995 Code, Ord. 1324, 08-08-2005)

28 **204.04: MEMBERSHIP; TERMS AND REMOVAL:**

- 29 A. Membership: The commission shall consist of seven members, to be appointed by the City
30 Council. Members of the commission shall be appointed with due regard to their fitness for
31 the efficient dispatch of the functions, powers and duties vested in and imposed upon the
32 commission. In addition to the members appointed above, the City Council may for one year
33 terms appoint additional residents of the city under 21 years of age to serve as (ex officio)
34 members of the human rights commission. (Ord. 1253, 6-26-2001) (Ord. 1313, 12-6-2004)
- 35 B. Terms: The first commission shall consist of four members appointed for a term of three
36 years, three members for a term of two years, and three members for a term of one year.
37 Members of the commission shall be appointed for terms of three years, except that any
38 person appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which
39 such member's predecessor was appointed, shall be appointed only for the remainder of such

term. Upon the expiration of such member's term of office, a member shall continue to serve until such member's successor is appointed and shall have qualified.

- C. Compensation; Removal: The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, and may be removed from office by a 4/5 vote of the City Council. (Ord. 566, 2-19-1968)

204.05: DUTIES:

In fulfillment of its purpose, the commission's duties and responsibilities shall be to:

- A. Adopt bylaws and rules for the conduct of its affairs including the election, assumption of duties and definition of responsibilities of officers and committees.
- B. Enlist the cooperation of agencies, organizations and individuals in the community in an active program directed to create equal opportunity and eliminate discrimination and inequalities.
- C. Formulate a human relations program for the city to give increased effectiveness and direction to the work of all individuals and agencies addressing themselves to planning, policy making and educational programming in the area of civil and human rights.
- D. Advise the mayor, the City Council and other agencies of the government of human relations and civil rights problems. Act in an advisory capacity with respect to planning or operation of any city department on issues of civil and human rights and recommend the adoption of such specific policies or actions as are needed to provide for full equal opportunity in the community.
- E. Develop such programs of formal and informal education as will assist in the implementation of the Minnesota state act against discrimination, and provide for the commission's assumption of leadership in recognizing and resolving potential problem areas in the community. (Ord. 566, 2-19-1968; amd. 1995 Code)
- F. Monitor statistical and other data trends in our city and identify and recommend to the city council ways to encourage mutual understanding among our citizens about the community's diversity through, but not limited to:
 - 1. connecting and partnering with neighborhood, community, educational, business and social services groups and organizations;
 - 2. co-sponsoring citywide neighborhood or facilitating community events which would include opportunities for heritage and cultural events; and
 - 3. programs for engaging citizens and community leaders in a holistic approach including dialogues, education and training about diversity issues.

SECTION 2: Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Roseville this ____ day of _____ 200_.

91 William J. Malinen, City Manager