

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2012

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB12-0347
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
HEALTH, SAFETY, EDUCATION & SERVICES

A BILL

for an ordinance combining the Agency of Human Rights and Community Relations with the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships and renaming the former to Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

WHEREAS, in 1948, Mayor Quigg Newton created the Mayor’s Committee on Human Relations;

WHEREAS, the Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations was established by ordinance in 1984 (“Agency”);

WHEREAS, in 2004, Mayor Hickenlooper created the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships (“Office”);

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Office believe a number of opportunities exist for collaboration within the community and amongst the Agency’s commissions and the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships Commission and that there is potential for additional collaboration;

WHEREAS, Council finds that opportunities for collaboration exist and that there is potential for additional collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that combining the Agency and the Office would facilitate collaboration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

**ARTICLE II. - AGENCY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY
RELATIONSPARTNERSHIPS**

Sec. 28-16. - Created.

There is hereby created the agency for human rights and community ~~relations~~partnerships as a staff agency under the mayor. The agency shall consist of the executive director and appropriate staff.

Sec. 28-17. - Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the agency are:

~~(1) At the request of the mayor, or of the council acting by resolution, to investigate incidents or patterns of discrimination by city agencies based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender variance, and to report such findings within a reasonable time to the mayor and council.~~ (1) To develop and conduct programs to be used by community groups, Denver employers, and local agencies specifically to address issues and opportunities of nonprofits, older adults, ~~youth~~, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, women, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons, and people with disabilities.

(2) Upon request of a city agency or the mayor, to conduct programs for city employees that will improve their understanding of the issues and opportunities of ~~youth~~ older adults, racial, ethnic, and

1 religious minorities, women, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons, ~~and~~ people with
2 disabilities, and nonprofits working with or on behalf of any of these populations.

3 (3) In the event of widespread civil disturbance, natural disaster or other emergency, and at the
4 request of the mayor, to provide for dissemination of reliable and accessible information to citizens in
5 coordination with the office of emergency preparedness ~~or~~ and other appropriate agencies.
6 Accessible information may include, without limitation, sign language interpretation, computer aided
7 real-time transcription, Braille, and other accommodations based on a disability.

8 (4) ~~For limited periods of time, a~~ Assist community groups which seek improved city services or
9 improved communications with the city and to report to the mayor and the council on these activities
10 in a timely manner.

11 (5) ~~To maintain a referral database of community services available to~~ make available to Denver
12 residents, neighborhood organizations and groups, nonprofits, older adults, racial, ethnic, and
13 religious minorities, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons, women, and people with
14 disabilities information regarding community services for these populations.

15 (6) To act as liaison of the city to the Denver Sister Cities International organization.

16 (7) To exercise powers provided to the agency under article IV of this chapter.

17 (8) To promote compliance with and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act among
18 city departments and properties and act as a resource for external entities.

19 (9) To engage and integrate new and developing communities in civic participation and community
20 involvement.

21 (10) To develop and execute training and capacity building programs that build relationships,
22 knowledge, and skills for City agencies, nonprofits, and the community to work together.

23 (11) To develop and execute initiatives that create an enhanced environment of support for
24 nonprofits and community members working with the City and County of Denver.

25 (12) To leverage, coordinate, or distribute resources to enhance nonprofit and community access to
26 funding opportunities to better meet community needs.

27 **Sec. 28-18. - Mission.**

28 The Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnership's mission and purpose of the agency is to
29 serve as a communication link between the city and its residents in the agency's advocacy for human
30 rights and community relations. The agency shall advocate on the issues and opportunities of its
31 constituent groups and for the rights of all people consistent with the Charter and authority granted under
32 article II is to proactively protect human rights, build capacities, and strengthen connections that result in
33 stronger relationships in the community through collaboration, communication, and advocacy. Its mission
34 is to be construed and executed consistent with the Charter and authority granted in this article II.

35 **Sec. 28-19. - Membership in outside organizations.**

36 Staff members shall not participate as members in outside organizations on city time, without prior written
37 approval from the executive director.

1 **Sec. 28-20. - Commissions—Created.**

2 The following commissions are hereby created: a Commission for People with Disabilities, Commission
3 on Aging, Denver Women's Commission, Denver Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Commission,
4 Denver Latino Commission, Denver African American Commission, Denver Asian Pacific American
5 Commission, ~~and Denver American Indian Commission,~~ and Denver Office for Strategic Partnerships
6 Commission.

7 **Sec. 28-21. - Same—Appointments, removal, terms.**

8 (a) Each commission must consist of no less than seven (7) commission members and no more than
9 twenty-one (21) commission members. All members of each commission shall be appointed by the mayor
10 and confirmed by council acting by resolution.

11 (b) Commission members shall serve without compensation, except that commission members may be
12 reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with the work of the commission in accordance with the
13 charter and code, executive orders, fiscal rules, and city policies and as approved by the executive
14 director.

15 (c) All members will serve in accordance with section 2.2.6 of the Charter.

16 (d) The terms of the members shall be two (2) years; the terms shall be staggered so that one-half (1/2)
17 of the members are appointed each year. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, his/her
18 successor shall be appointed in the manner provided for original appointment, to serve for the unexpired
19 portion of the term for which such member has been appointed.

20 (e) Subject to the executive director's confirmation, chairpersons will be elected by the respective
21 commissions in accordance with its bylaws.

22 (f) The term of each chairperson is one (1) year. No commission member may serve as chairperson for
23 more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms.

24 **Sec. 28-22. - Same—Membership.**

25 (a) The membership of the commission shall make a good faith effort to represent the ethnic, gender,
26 racial, age distribution, sexual orientation, geographic ~~demographics~~ area, and political viewpoints and
27 affiliations of their constituency population.

28 (b) Qualifications for commission membership must be set forth in the respective commissions' by-laws.

29 **Sec. 28-23. - Same—Powers and duties.**

30 The powers and duties of each of the commissions are to:

31 (1) Advise the executive director and the mayor on the special issues and opportunities of its
32 respective constituent groups.

33 (2) Recommend necessary procedures, programs, legislation or administrative action and to
34 promote equal rights and opportunity for the people of the city to the executive director.

35 (3) Develop and present goals and objectives of the commissions to the executive director and the
36 advisory board annually.

37 (4) Elect one (1) individual as its delegate to the advisory board and one (1) individual as its

1 alternate delegate to the advisory board. If the primary delegate cannot attend a scheduled meeting
2 or perform their duties, the alternate delegate shall attend scheduled meetings and perform duties at
3 the primary delegate's request.

4 (5) Develop and adopt bylaws concerning internal affairs, including, without limitation, membership
5 qualifications, governance, and operation of the commission. All bylaws, including any amendments
6 thereto, are subject to the executive director's approval.

7 (6) Provide, as requested by the Agency, input to office directors regarding annual goals, priorities,
8 and objectives.

9 **Sec. 28-24. - Advisory board—Created.**

10 The human rights and community ~~relations~~ partnerships advisory board is hereby created.

11 **Sec. 28-25. - Same—Appointments, removal, terms.**

12 (a) The advisory board shall consist of one representative from each agency commission and five (5)
13 community representatives. The community representatives shall be appointed by the mayor and
14 confirmed by council acting by resolution. All members shall serve in accordance with section 2.2.6 of the
15 Charter.

16 (b) The members shall serve without compensation, except that advisory board members may be
17 reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with the work of the advisory board in accordance with
18 the charter and code, executive orders, fiscal rules, and city policies and as approved by the executive
19 director.

20 (c) The terms of the advisory board members shall be two (2) years.

21 (d) The terms shall be staggered so that one-half (1/2) of the members are appointed each year. In the
22 event of the death or resignation of any member, a successor shall be appointed in the manner provided
23 for original appointment, to serve for the unexpired portion of the term for which such member has been
24 appointed.

25 (e) ~~The advisory board shall nominate a member to serve as chairperson, shall be nominated by the~~
26 ~~advisory board and appointed by the mayor who upon acceptance of the nomination, confirmation by the~~
27 Executive Director, and subject to the Charter, article II of this chapter, and the advisory board's bylaws,
28 shall serve as chair for a period of one (1) year. The chairperson shall serve for a period of one (1) year.
29 No advisory board member elected chairperson may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms as
30 chairperson. The Executive Director has the right to remove the chairperson from this position for cause.

31 **Sec. 28-26. - Same—Membership.**

32 The advisory board will consist of a representative from each commission and five (5) community
33 representatives. Community representatives may not concurrently serve on any of the agency's
34 commissions and the advisory board.

35 **Sec. 28-27. - Same—Powers and duties.**

36 The powers and duties of the advisory board shall be to:

37 (a) Advise the executive director on special or emerging issues or opportunities that may affect

1 constituent groups.

2 (b) Provide input to the executive director regarding an annual agency goals, priorities, and
3 objectives, such as analysis of the annual plans of the advisory commissions.

4 (c) Receive reports from commission delegates regarding the work of the delegates respective
5 commission as it relates to the advisory board's agenda.

6 (d) Create sub-committees, as needed, to research an emerging issue or situation for a time period
7 determined by the advisory board and recommend necessary procedures, programs, legislation or
8 administrative action in a final report submitted to the executive director.

9 (e) The advisory board shall meet at least six (6) times a year and may hold special meetings as
10 the chairperson deems necessary.

11 (f) Develop and adopt bylaws concerning governance and operation of the board. All bylaws,
12 including amendments thereto, are subject to the executive director's approval.

13 (g) The advisory board shall conduct a review every five years to assess the viability and
14 effectiveness of each commission and to evaluate the need to eliminate existing or establish new
15 commissions. The advisory board shall report its findings and make recommendations to the
16 executive director in writing or orally or both as requested by the executive director or mayor.

17 **Secs. 28-28—28-30. - Reserved.**

18 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: April 24, 2012

19 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: May 22, 2012

20 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2012

21 _____ - PRESIDENT

22 APPROVED: _____ MAYOR _____ 2012

23 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
24 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
25 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

26 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL _____ 2012; _____ 2012

27 PREPARED BY: Katherine L. Wilmoth – Assistant City Attorney DATE: May 24, 2012

28 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the City
29 Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed ordinance. The
30 proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.

31 Douglas J. Friednash, Denver City Attorney

32 BY: _____, Assistant City Attorney DATE: _____