



Amanda
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DENVER CITY COUNCIL ★ DISTRICT 5

Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships

DENVER DISTRICT 5 ★ CONNECTING PEOPLE & GOVERNMENT



Agency History

Mayor Quigg Newton formed Committee on Human Relations to conduct a study on the state of race relations in Denver and offer recommendations.

1947

Helen Peterson was appointed as first director of Commission on Human Relations.

1948

Helen Peterson leaves to run the National Congress of American Indians.

1953

Minoru Yasui was appointed Executive Director of the Commission.

1967

The Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships codified. Only 3 commissions are written into ordinance.

1984

The additional six commissions that compose HRCP are added to the ordinance.

2008

Additional structural changes are made under the Hancock administration including renaming to Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

2011

| Code Status

HRCP is codified in Chapter 28 of the DRMC and through several executive orders:

- The Agency itself is codified in Sections 28-1 thru 19
- The Commissions that serve under its umbrella are codified in Sections 28-20 thru 23
- The HRCP Advisory Board is codified in Sections 28-24 thru 27
- Safe & Welcoming City for Immigrants and Refugees is EO 142
- Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act is EO 147
- Citywide Language Access Program is EO 150

HRCP's official mission is stated as:

“The Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnership's mission is to proactively protect human rights, build capacities, and strengthen connections that result in stronger relationships in the community through collaboration, communication, and advocacy. Its mission is to be construed and executed consistent with the Charter and authority granted in this article II.”

5 | Agency Structure

HRCP encompasses a comprehensive framework structured around seven fundamental pillars:

- Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Research
- Service

The agency itself is made up of 10 commissions, 7 offices, 1 division, and an advisory board.

5 | Commissions

1. African American Commission (DAAC)
2. Commission on Aging (DCOA)
3. American Indian Commission (DAIC)
4. Asian American Pacific Islander Commission (DAAPIC)
5. Immigrant and Refugee Commission (DIRC)
6. Latino Commission (DLC)
7. LGBTQ Commission (DLGBTQ)
8. Commission for Nonprofit Engagement (DNEC)
9. Commission for People with Disabilities (DCPD)
10. Women's Commission (DWC)

1. Office of Financial Empowerments and Protection (OFEP)

- 2024 budget allocation: \$1,667,833 & 11.25 FTEs
- OFEP strives to achieve economic mobility, financial equity and inclusion, and generational wealth for Denver residents and small businesses through the integration of financial empowerment policies, programs and practices.
- There are seven defining programs and initiatives of OFEP:
 - Financial Empowerment Centers (FEC)
 - Free Tax Services (Denver Asset Building Coalition, Tax Payer Advocate Services)
 - Bank On Denver (BOD)
 - Consumer Financial Protection (CFP)
 - Financial Navigation
 - Financial Empowerment Innovation Center
 - Citywide Initiatives

5 | Offices Continued

2. Office of Storytelling

- 2024 budget allocation: \$432,363 & 3 FTEs
- The Denver Office of Storytelling preserves and shares the history and culture of the city primarily by creating films in the voices of residents. Through story, the office strives to inform decision-making at City Hall and to uplift community voices for conversation and engagement, particularly around issues of social justice.

3. Office on Aging

- 2024 budget allocation: \$458,368 & 3 FTEs
- The Denver Office on Aging advocates for Denver's older population by helping local agencies develop policies and programs that will improve the quality of life and accessibility to care and culture for aging residents.



Offices Continued

4. Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (DOIRA)

- 2024 budget allocation: \$1,570,708 & 6 FTEs
- DOIRA partners with nonprofits, community-based organizations, residents, and government agencies to develop and implement policies, practices and programs that influence the various paths of immigrant integration.

5. Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)

- 2024 budget allocation: \$529,893 & 4 FTEs
- DHHS provides sign language interpreters and real-time captioning via Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) to Denver City and County government agencies at no cost.



Offices Continued

6. Office of Nonprofit Engagement (D-ONE)

- 2024 budget allocation: \$211,369 & 1.75 FTEs
- D-ONE is committed to increasing the capacity and sustainability of the nonprofit sector through workshops and events, targeted programming and grants.

7. Anti-Discrimination Office (DADO)

- 2024 budget allocation: \$137,678 & 1 FTEs
- DADO works toward putting an end to discrimination in employment, housing and commercial space, public accommodations, educational institutions, and health and welfare services on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, immigration status, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, military status, disability, source of income and protected hairstyles.

The Division is the Division of Disability Rights (DDDR).

DDDR coordinates the City and County of Denver's efforts to ensure compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Their role is to ensure that all City services and programs are accessible to people with disabilities.

2024 budget recommended \$1,297,408 with 8 FTEs.

| Advisory Board

Established in 2007, the HRCP Advisory Board is made up of 15 members, 10 representatives from our Commissions and 5 at-large community members. Three of the five at-large members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council. The remaining two are jointly appointed by the Mayor and City Council.

The Advisory Board's primary responsibility is to advise the Executive Director on special or emerging issues or opportunities that may affect our communities.

5 | Future Growth

HRCF is in the process of expanding its presence and impact on the community by establishing additional offices

Two prospective offices currently under consideration are:

- Office of Neighborhood Engagement
- Office of Community Safety, Well-Being, and Justice (CSWJ)

The Office of Neighborhood Engagement has secured \$159,340 in funding from the 2024 budget to support its development

5 | Conclusions

HRCP possesses a rich and distinguished legacy in Denver. Its expansive reach and impactful initiatives make it a prime candidate for formal recognition as a city department enshrined in the charter.

Elevating HRCP to Charter Agency status would not only provide vital stability and protection against potential economic challenges, but it would also serve as a powerful symbol of Denver's unwavering dedication to human rights and the well-being of its diverse communities.

Charter Amendment to add the Agency for Human Rights & Community Partnerships to the City Charter as part of the official “Mayoral Cabinet”

- As a Charter agency, the Executive Director position would be subject to City Council approval
- Specifics around the divisions of HRCP would remain in ordinance
- As the City evolves, HRCP would remain a standalone agency
- As discussions around an Office of Neighborhood Safety and an Office of Community Engagement continue, it would ensure a meaningful location for these offices
- It would be a performative statement to the City’s commitment to all residents