

1
2 **BY AUTHORITY**

3 ORDINANCE NO.
4 SERIES OF 2024

COUNCIL BILL NO. 24-0715
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Finance and Governance

6
7 **A BILL**

8
9 For an ordinance submitting to a vote of the qualified and registered electors of the
10 City and County of Denver at a special municipal election to be held in conjunction with
11 the coordinated election of November 5, 2024, a proposed amendment to the Charter
12 of the City and County of Denver to add the Department for Human Rights and
13 Community Partnerships to the Charter as a cabinet agency and make conforming
14 amendments.

15
16 WHEREAS, Mayor Quigg Newton created the Mayor’s Committee on Human Relations in
17 1948 for the purpose of addressing segregation;

18 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Committee was eventually codified and in 1959 was renamed to
19 the Commission on Community Relations;

20 WHEREAS, in 1984 the Commission was renamed to the Agency for Human Rights and
21 Community Relations;

22 WHEREAS, in 2012 the Agency was combined with the Denver Office of Strategic
23 Partnerships to create the Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships;

24 WHEREAS, Council hereby recognizes Denver’s continuing commitment to protect the
25 human rights of the most vulnerable community members including populations who are
26 underserved and historically marginalized; and

27 WHEREAS, Council has determined that the Agency should be placed in the Mayor’s
28 Cabinet so that its mission can guide the formulation of the general administrative policies of
29 the City and County of Denver.

30
31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF**
32 **DENVER:**

33
34 **Section 1.** There is hereby submitted to the properly qualified and registered electors of
35 the city and county of Denver for their approval or rejection at a special municipal election to be
36 conducted at the same time and in conjunction with the coordinated election to be held on

1 November 5, 2024, a proposed amendment to the charter of the city and county of Denver, as
2 follows:

3
4 **Effective upon publication and filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with**
5 **the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, the following sections of the**
6 **Charter of the city and county of Denver are amended to read as follows:**

7
8 **§ 2.2.6 – Administrative appointments.**

9 (D) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Mayor shall nominate
10 in a reasonable and timely manner, and, by and with the consent of City Council, appoint the
11 following officers:

12 (xiii) The Manager of Community Planning and Development, as described in section
13 2.13.2 of this Charter;~~and~~

14 (xiv) The City Attorney, as described in section 6.1.1 of this Charter; and

15 (xv) The Manager of Human Rights and Community Partnerships, as described in
16 section 2.8.2 of this Charter.

17
18 **§ 2.2.10 - Mayor's cabinet.**

19 (A) The Mayor and the cabinet, which shall consist of the Manager of the Department
20 of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Manager of the Department of Finance, the Manager of
21 the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Manager of the Department of Environmental
22 Health, the Manager of the Department of Safety, the Manager of the Department of General
23 Services, the Manager of the Department of Human Services, the Manager of the Department of
24 Aviation, the Manager of the Department of Community Planning and Development, the Manager
25 of Department of Human Rights and Community Partnerships, and the City Attorney, shall
26 formulate the general administrative policies of the City and County, and each Manager and
27 Officer in its department, shall be responsible for and have full power to carry out such policies.

28
29 **PART 8. – HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

30
31 **§ 2.8.1 - Department of Human Rights and Community Partnerships created; powers and**
32 **duties.**

33 There shall be and hereby is created a Department of Human Rights and Community

1 Partnerships. The powers and duties of the Department are:

2 (A) To develop and conduct programs to be used by community groups, nonprofits, and
3 Denver employers, that address issues and create opportunities to protect the human rights of
4 underserved and historically marginalized populations;

5 (B) To conduct trainings and programs for city employees that will improve their
6 understanding of the issues facing underserved and historically marginalized populations and
7 nonprofits working with or on behalf of these populations as well as opportunities to protect the
8 human rights of such populations;

9 (C) To assist community groups seeking improved city services or improved
10 communication with the city and to report to the Mayor and the Council on these activities in a
11 timely manner;

12 (D) To promote compliance with and implementation of federal, state, and local laws
13 prohibiting discrimination and to act as a resource for internal and external entities;

14 (E) To develop and execute initiatives that create an enhanced environment of support
15 for nonprofits and community members working with city; and

16 (F) To perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Mayor or required by
17 ordinance.

18
19 **§ 2.8.2 - Manager of Human Rights and Community Partnerships.**

20 The Manager of Human Rights and Community Partnerships shall be in full charge and
21 control of the Department, shall devote full time to the duties of the office, shall be nominated and,
22 by and with the consent of Council, appointed by the Mayor, and shall hold office at the pleasure
23 of the Mayor.

24
25 **§2.8.3. – Human Rights and Community Partnerships Advisory Board – Powers and Duties.**

26 There is hereby created the Human Rights and Community Partnerships Advisory Board,
27 the size, qualifications, composition and appointment of which shall be set by Council. The
28 functions of the board shall be to all advise the Manager with respect to the policy and operation
29 of the Department, shall receive reports and review the Department's commissions, may create
30 sub-committees, as needed, to research emerging issues, and perform such other functions as
31 may be assigned by the Mayor or required by ordinance.

32
33 **§ 9.2.1 - Salaries and benefits of certain Charter officers set by ordinance.**

1 The annual salaries and benefits of the following officers of the City and County of Denver
2 shall be set by ordinance as hereinafter provided:

3 (B) Appointed Charter officers. Manager of the Department of Public Health and
4 Environment; Manager of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure; City Attorney;
5 Manager of the Department of Safety; Manager of the Department of Finance; Manager of the
6 Department of Parks and Recreation; Manager of the Department of General Services; Manager
7 of the Department of Human Services; Manager of the Department of Aviation; Manager of the
8 Department of Community Planning and Development; Director of Excise and Licenses; Manager
9 of Human Rights and Community Partnerships.

10
11 **Section 2.** The ballot shall contain the following title and submission clause:

12
13 **REFERRED QUESTION _____**

14 Shall the Charter of the City and County of Denver be amended to add the Agency of
15 Human Rights and Community Partnerships as a cabinet department and define the
16 powers and duties of the department?

17
18 **Section 3.** The proper officials of the City and County of Denver as are charged with duties
19 relating to the election shall, before the election, issue such calls, make such certifications and
20 publications, give such notices, make such appointments, and do all such other acts and things
21 in connection with the submission of this Charter amendment to the registered electors of the City
22 and County of Denver at the election as are required by the Constitution and laws of the State of
23 Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of Denver.

24 **Section 4.** That pursuant to Section 31-2-210(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes, the
25 Clerk and Recorder is directed to publish a notice of the City's special election and to include in
26 that notice the full text of the proposed amendments as stated in this Ordinance. Such notice is
27 to be published within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this Ordinance and not less than sixty
28 (60) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before said election.

29 **Section 5.** The ballots cast at such election shall be canvassed and the results
30 ascertained, determined, and certified in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution
31 and laws of the State of Colorado and the Charter and ordinances of the City and County of
32 Denver.

33 **Section 6.** If any section, paragraph, clause, or other portion of this ordinance is held to

1 be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance
2 shall not be affected.

3
4 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: June 4, 2024

5 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: June 11, 2024

6 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____

7 _____ - PRESIDENT

8 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____

9 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
10 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
11 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
12

13 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL _____ ; _____

14
15 PREPARED BY: Jonathan Griffin, Assistant City Attorney; DATE: April 8, 2024

16
17 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
18 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
19 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to
20 § 3.2.6 of the Charter.

21
22 Kerry Tipper, City Attorney

23
24 BY: _____ City Attorney DATE: _____

25