

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