

Resolution R-2012- 26

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION FOR
THE CITY OF DURANGO AND DEFINING ITS PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Durango recognizes the importance of promoting and accepting diversity within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to discourage all forms of discrimination including, but not limited to, discrimination on the basis of race, creed, economic condition, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, gender expression, marital or familial status, military or veteran status, political affiliation, socio-economic class, physical or mental disability; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the jurisdiction exercised by the City of Durango is limited to within its municipal boundaries and should not conflict, or duplicate, the jurisdiction of any county, state, or federal agency that may have legal authority over cognizant matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Durango, Colorado, that:

Section 1. The Durango Community Relations Commission is hereby established for the purpose of promoting social harmony among all visitors and residents within the City of Durango; increasing participation in government, business, media and social life among all sectors of the community; and to recommend resolution of matters relating to community relations from within the City of Durango through referrals to other agencies, or through mediation and conciliation when the complaint falls within the City of Durango's jurisdiction.

Section 2. The Commission will promote acceptance and respect for diversity through promoting and extending existing educational programs and cultural events; assisting in the creation of new educational programs and cultural events; and working with local businesses, governmental units, media and nonprofit agencies to increase their awareness of and accessibility to all members of the community. The Commission will also discourage all forms of discrimination including, but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, creed, economic condition, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, native language, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, gender expression, marital or familial status, military or veteran status, political affiliation, socio-economic class, resident or public assistance status, organizational membership or physical or mental disability.

Section 3. The Commission will encourage participation by all groups in local government. To this end, the Commission may advocate for accommodations for specific groups and individuals including but not limited to publication of written material in braille and foreign languages, and the provision of ASL and foreign language interpreters in courts and City of Durango functions that are open to the public.

Section 4. The Commission will encourage the City of Durango and other governmental units to adopt policies that promote social harmony and prohibit discrimination, and encourage the creation of a regional Community Relations Commission.

Section 5. When requested, the Commission will use its best efforts to resolve community conflicts and tensions when the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Durango. To this end, the Commission may:

- a) Consult or confer with public officials, private individuals and organizations when requested.
- b) Render assistance, advice and informed advocacy to agencies of local government, community groups and individuals when requested.
- c) Provide education and communications regarding civil and human rights.
- d) Provide information, guidance and referrals for voluntary mediation and conciliation services to aggrieved individuals.

Section 6. When complaints fall outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Durango, the Commission may provide information and referrals to appropriate state and federal agencies.

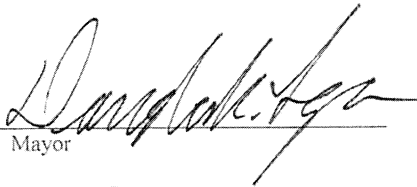
Section 7. The Commission shall not have any regulatory authority or enforcement powers.

Section 8. The Commission shall be advisory in nature and shall submit regular meeting minutes and activity reports to the City Council. Procedures for determining officers of the Commission, meeting protocols, determining and filling of vacancies on the Commission and similar matters shall be in accordance with the City of Durango Rules and Procedures for Boards and Commissions.

Section 9. The Commission shall consist of 5 members appointed by the City Council and representing a cross-section of the community. The City Manager, or his designee, shall serve as staff to the Commission.

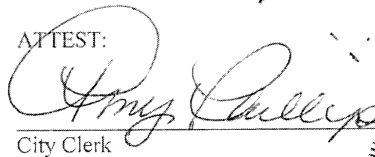
Approved and adopted this 4th day of September , 2012

CITY OF DURANGO, COLORADO



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

