



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-5035

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## Rapid City Human Relations Commission

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TO: Legal & Finance Committee

FROM: Dr. Dennis Edwards, Chairman – Rapid City Human Relations Commission (RCHRC)

DATE: September 1, 2010

RE: Semi-Annual Report

The Human Relations Commission's authorizing ordinance at Section 2.64.120 provides that the Commission make a report to the Common Council every six months. The last report was provided on March 10, 2010 and this report is somewhat belated because of HRC meeting scheduling.

### Members

Dr. Dennis Edwards, Chairman

Wayne Gilbert, Vice Chairman

Susan (Sue) Timmons, Secretary

Jeremiah (Jay) Davis, Member

Barry Hjort, Member

Lin Jennewein, Member

Melbert (Mel) Prairie Chicken, Member

Here is a summary of Commission activities since the HRC's last report to the Common Council:

1. **Discrimination complaint processing.** The Commission has received five complaints of discrimination. (The \* denotes referred to the South Dakota Division of Labor and Management)

a. One complaint based upon: Race/Color, Religion/Creed, Housing Administration, Public Services, and Public Accommodations.

\*b. One complaint based upon: Race/Color, Familial Status, Public Services.

c. One complaint based upon: Race/Color, Religion/Creed, National Origin/Ancestry, Public services.

\*d. One complaint based upon: Race/Color, Disability

\*c. One complaint based upon: National Origin/Ancestry, Employment

Three complaints based upon race/color, familial status, public services, disability, national origin, ancestry and employment have been referred to the South Dakota Division of Labor and Management for assessment because the HRC did not have jurisdiction:

Two complaints were made against Rapid City Police Department, and one complaint against the City (City of Rapid City employee).

The remaining two complaints -- one based upon a claim of race/color housing accommodations, public services, and public accommodations are currently being investigated and processed by the Commission. One is in the pre-mediation stage.

**2. Community outreach.** Members of the HRC have attended the EEOC presentation and training from an EEOC representative. The HRC has had mediation training from a local mediation training agency. A representative from the South Dakota Division of Labor and Management (the "Division") which processes discrimination claims and after "probable cause" determination forwards complaints to the South Dakota Human Rights Commission (SDHRC) for resolution; and by the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), provided the HRC with important information about the above agency and its operations. Review the HRC website for information, minutes, posters, and brochures. Information has been submitted to 211HELP! Line about the HRC, poster, brochure, website information and the complaint filing process.

**3. Form:** The HRC has created the RCHRC Complaint Tracking Form (see attached copy). This will help maintain a timeline for tracking complaints and the complaint process. The City Website has been updated with the elections of three new commissioners for the HRC.

**4. Work in Progress.** The Commission has initiated a mediation agreement letter with the complainant and the respondent. We are awaiting their response. We are working on the development of a **Public Service Announcement (PSA)** that would explain the HRC role, mission, and can be utilized on the City's channels or in other media outlets (Radio, TV, etc). Commission members are still actively engaged in the distribution of poster and brochures throughout the City -- asking that it be placed on bulletin boards in public and private business locations.

Thank you.



Dr. Dennis Edwards, Chairman

Attachment:

RCHRC Complaint Tracking Form

Rapid City Human Relations Commission  
Complaint Tracking Form

Name	Complaint:	Date Rec"d	File#	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	Results	HRC-Initials