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CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Human Rights Proclamation **DATE:** November 30, 2015

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND: Human Rights Day is December 10, 2015 which celebrates the founding ideals of our nation and emphasizes the importance of protecting human liberty throughout our country. Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law, and all are equal before the law, and all are entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law. On this day we celebrate the ideals of our founders and reaffirm our belief that freedom is the right of all mankind.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): none

RECOMMENDATION: Recognize Human Rights Day and recognize Human Rights Commission.

Lead Staff Member: Althea Holcomb

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Althea Holcomb
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	RTG

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

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A Proclamation

Whereas, On Human Rights Day, Thursday, December 10th, 2015, we celebrate the founding ideals of our Nation which emphasize the importance of protecting human liberty throughout our great country; and

Whereas, As Iowans, we cherish the values of free speech, equality, and religious freedom, and we stand in unity against injustice, inequality and tyranny; and

Whereas, the citizens of West Des Moines affirm that everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law, and all are equal before the law, and all are entitled without discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Whereas, we believe peace and justice prevail when people are free to speak, assemble, and worship, when their rights are protected, and when governments are accountable to their citizens. These foundations of freedom are guaranteed for Americans in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution.

Whereas, On December 10th, 2015 Human Rights Day, we celebrate the ideals of our founders and reaffirm the belief that freedom is the right of all mankind.

Whereas, the citizens of West Des Moines, recognize a special responsibility to advance the claims of the oppressed; to reaffirm the rights to life and liberty as fundamental rights upon which all others are based; and to safeguard the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. As we are free, we must speak up for those who are not.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven Gaer, Mayor of the City of West Des Moines, do hereby recognize that December 10, 2015, is Human Rights Day. We call upon the citizens of West Des Moines to be respectful of the rights of others and appreciate the diversity of all residents and visitors in the City of West Des Moines.