CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Approval of Proclamation
Human Rights Day – December 10, 2020

DATE: December 7, 2020

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND:

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year and celebrates the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the University Declaring of Human Rights in 1948. The City of West Des Moines also celebrates the WDM Human Rights Commission which is actively involved with other local and state Human Rights Commissions to provide education, awareness and appreciation of diversity in West Des Moines, the Greater Des Moines Metro Area and the State of Iowa.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of Proclamation naming December 10, 2020 as Human Rights Day.

Lead Staff Member: Laura Reveles, Assistant to the City Manager

STAFF REVIEWS

Department Director	Tom Hadden, City Manager
Appropriations/Finance	
Legal	
Agenda Acceptance	

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee			
Date Reviewed			
Recommendation	Yes	No	Split

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HUMAN RIGHTS PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on Human Rights Day, Thursday, December 10, 2020, 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 regardless of age, race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

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, 2020, Human Rights Day, we celebrate the ideals of our founders and reaffirmed 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 proclaim December 10, 2020, as 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.

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Steven K. Gaer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk