



Memorandum

TO: Mayor Allen Joines and Members of the City Council
FROM: Jenny Viars, Human Relations Commission Chairperson
Wanda Allen-Abraha, Human Relations Department Director
DATE: September 13, 2011
SUBJECT: Summary of 2010-2011 Human Relations Commission Strategic
Action Plan and Human Relations Department Annual Report
CC: Lee D. Garrity

Human Relations

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Attached, please find the Human Relations Commission's Major Program and Project Highlights for the **2010-2011 fiscal year**.

Also, please note the following undertakings of the staff during the past fiscal year:

1. Approximately 87 outreach and educational programs and public forums and discussions were conducted;
2. Approximately 15,000 citizens attended outreach and education programs and public forums and discussions;
3. Approximately 493 total inquiries and complaints were processed;
4. Approximately 47 housing discrimination cases were processed; and

The Human Relations Commission, in adopting its Strategic Action Plan, recognizes the need to continue fostering an environment that initiates and supports multi-racial and multi-ethnic inclusion in our community. The Commission also embraces the ordinance amending Article III, Division 8 of Chapter 2 of the City Code, as adopted by the City Council on January 21, 2003, charging the Commission with facilitating partnerships with fair housing and cultural community organizations in furtherance of the Commission's purpose. To achieve the Commission's purpose, we respectfully request your support of the following recommendations:

1. The Human Relations Commission recognizes the importance of building and maintaining effective lines of communication between City government and the community. By improving the dialogue with our diverse community groups, City government can ensure that the City of Winston-Salem fosters an environment that is conducive for an atmosphere in which everyone is treated fairly. In carrying out its strategic goals, the Commission will increase its outreach efforts in all areas of the community and will seek input from the City Council on issues or concerns in their respective wards.
2. The Human Relations Commission seeks to build a stronger relationship with City officials and City commissions by inviting input and attendance for Human Relations programs and activities.



> request a service > report a problem
> make a suggestion

City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Wanda Merschel, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

3. The Department will continue to provide a bilingual staff member who can assist with proactive outreach measures that will facilitate building positive relations between the City government and our rapidly increasing Hispanic population.

The Commission appreciates the continual support it has received from the City Council. Your continued support will only strengthen the Human Relations Commission efforts in working on behalf of all the citizens in Winston-Salem. The Commission welcomes any comments or questions you may have. Additional copies of this annual report summary and the full 2010-2011 annual report are available upon request.

Wanda Allen-Abraha

Attachment