

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 5, 2017

CONTACT: Sue Breeding, Sr. Public Information Officer, Dept. of Public Affairs - 480.385.8467

GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL CREATES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION *Action Demonstrate City's Commitment as Welcoming Community for All*

GLENDALE, Ariz. – (June 5, 2017) The Glendale City Council unanimously approved an ordinance on May 23rd forming a new Human Relations Commission. The Human Relations Commission will advise the City Council about ways to encourage mutual respect and understanding among all people, discourage prejudice and discrimination and support unity in the community in all its diverse forms. The Commission will also make recommendations regarding support of special events that promote unity.

“A diverse community allows everyone to experience a perspective beyond their own backyard,” said Glendale City Manager Kevin Phelps. “Considering some of the high profile racial tensions in this country right now, I’m very proud of this action the Council has taken to show we want Glendale to be known as a place where everyone is welcome, feels safe and can live in pursuit of happiness.”

"I believe this is a positive step forward that will continue to unify our city and encourage mutual respect and understanding among *all* people," said Glendale Mayor Jerry Weiers.

Glendale has been actively engaged in dialogue regarding the important issues affecting its diverse population. The city has taken several other official actions as part of its commitment to employees to ensure that they will not be subjected to prejudice and discrimination.

Efforts to date include:

- Glendale officials signed the One Community UNITY Pledge, which publicly proclaims that Glendale supports workplace equality and celebrates diversity.
- Glendale has re-established its employee Diversity and Inclusion Network. The Network plans and sponsors events, celebrations and educational programs directed at embracing and including diversity within the organization. Programs have included celebrations of the birthdays of Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez and educational workshops designed to help city employees recognize, prevent and address unintended bias and workplace harassment.
- Glendale uses nondiscrimination language in all city contracts requiring that all contractors must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment based on marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic characteristics, familial status, or veteran status in addition to other federally recognized protected classes.
- Glendale has appointed an LGBT Community Liaison to Glendale’s Executive Staff. The liaison is a resource for the LGBT and other underserved communities to engage the city’s executive leaders, ensure the concerns of the LGBT community are being heard by executive city staff.

- Glendale’s City Council directed staff to hire an independent consultant to obtain public input on the potential adoption of an anti-discrimination ordinance. The results of the public outreach and report were presented to Council. Based on this feedback, the City Council decided it was unnecessary to move forward with an anti-discrimination ordinance.
- Glendale has given two major city street sections honorary names after champions of civil rights. The city now has a Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Cesar Chavez Blvd.

These actions are aligned with the city’s recently reformulated mission, vision and values statements set in motion by the City Council. These new guiding principles create an emphasis on improving lives and being the community of choice through integrity, excellence and innovation while being community driven and a learning organization.

The new Human Relations Commission will have 14 members. Two members will be appointed by each Councilmember and 2 members will be appointed by the Mayor. Commissioners must be residents of the City of Glendale.

City residents interested in serving on the Human Relations Commission or wishing to raise concerns or bring recommendations to the commission’s attention should contact the City Council office at (623) 930-2249.

###