



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Civil Rights**

Date: November 9, 2011

To: Council Member Don Samuels, CHAIR
Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health

Referral to: Public Hearing, Full Council

Subject: Approve Appointments to the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights

Recommendation: The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights respectfully requests the City Council hold a public hearing on November 30, 2011, for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the following four council actions:

1. The re-appointment of the following individual to a three-year term on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights:

Re-Appointee	Attorney	Ward	Appointing Authority	Original Appointment	New Term Beginning	Term Ending
Michelle Monteiro	Yes	9	Mayoral	1.13.2006	1.1.2012	12.31.2014

2. The appointment of the following individuals to a three-year term on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights with the tenure of the appointment to commence on January 1, 2011 and end December 31, 2014:

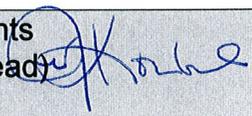
Appointee	Attorney	Ward	Appointing Authority
G. Christine Peters	Yes	10	Council
Kenneth H. Fukuda	Yes	11	Council
Danielle Shelton Walczak	Yes	13	Mayoral
Wendy Adler Robinson	No	8	Mayoral
Terrance Noble	No	1	Council
Peter Larsen	No	11	Council

3. To re-designate the following current individuals as attorney-commissioners:

Commissioner	Attorney	Ward	Appointing Authority	Original Appointment	Term Ending
Adosh D. Unni	Yes	6	Mayoral	1.1.2011	12.31.2013
Emily J. Froehle	Yes	6	Mayoral	1.1.2011	12.31.2013

4. To correct a clerical error in the 2010 appointment cycle by re-designating Commissioner Surya Rochel (Ward 7), a City Council appointee, as a member of the on the Commission on Civil Rights with a term ending on December 31, 2012.

Department Information

Prepared by: Michael K. Browne, Assistant Director (A.D.) of Civil Rights
Approved by: Velma J. Korb, Director of Civil Rights (Department Head) 
Presenter in Committee: A.D. Michael K. Browne

Financial Impact

- NONE

Supporting Information

The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights was first established by ordinance in 1947, and then re-established in 1975 for the purpose of carrying forward the policies of the City in the fields of human relations, to promote civil rights, and to enforce the provisions of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance.

The Commission on Civil Rights is a 21 member body with seven (7) Commissioners appointed by the City Council; the remaining 14 members are appointed by the Mayor. Only seven (7) Commissioners are appointed per year, with two combinations of mayoral and council appointments in years one and two, with the mayor appointing all seven Commissioners every third year. All mayoral appointments must be confirmed by the City Council; all City Council appointments are subject to mayoral consent or veto as provided in the Minneapolis City Charter.

Non-attorney (or non-presiding attorney) members must be willing to contribute 8-10 hours per month on commission related duties/meetings, while attorney members must be willing to contribute 12 - 14 hours per month. The commissioners serve on standing committees and hearing panels that review and/or adjudicate determinations regarding allegations of discrimination. Minneapolis residency is required.

Currently, there are nine (9) vacancies. Seven (7) of the vacancies are for new terms expiring in December 31, 2014. From these terms, three (3) are appointed by the Mayor and four (4) are appointed by the City Council. The two (2) remaining positions are unfilled seats with terms expiring on December 31, 2012.

By ordinance, a minimum of six (6) Commissioners must be attorneys, with a maximum of eight (8) possible attorney-commissioners. Currently, the Commission on Civil Rights has an insufficient number of attorney-commissioners. Of the terms expiring at the end of 2011: two (2) are not seeking re-appointment, one (1) resigned, and one (1) is seeking re-appointment. Due to this shortage, the Civil Rights Department request two (2) current Commissioners who are attorneys, but are not designated as such on the commission, be granted the attorney-commissioner status. There are two (2) attorney-commissioners positions that expire on 12.31.2013 which are unaffected by this action.

During the 2010 appointment cycle, eight (8) individuals were appointed to three year terms, although the Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance only allows for seven (7) appointees to be designated for full terms. This action was a clerical error and can be corrected by adjusting the term of last applicant selected to end on December 31, 2012.