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Diversity & Human Rights *focus*

Dialogue on Discrimination Series

by **Cristy Gleave, Chair**
Human Rights Commission

The mission of the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission is to create a community where every person is valued and treated with dignity and respect. Our goal is to ensure that every person will share the full benefits and responsibilities of living in Salt Lake City.

While Mayor Ralph Becker was campaigning, he proposed the Universal Human Rights Initiatives for Salt Lake City. As part of his Human Rights Initiative, Mayor Becker said:

“A focus on human rights in no way negates or dilutes any of the critical work that is to be done to combat racism in our community. These Human Rights Initiatives recognize that there are multiple forms of oppression, and multiple subjects of that oppression; to emphasize on at the expense of another is ultimately ineffective, because the mindset that permits the invidious discrimination underlying all forms of oppression is what we seek to overcome. And in that fight, we seek to foster equity among all residents of and visitors to Salt Lake City.”

The Human Rights Commission, under the direction of Mayor Becker and City Council Chair Jill Remington Love, is sponsoring an upcoming Dialogue on Discrimination Series. The goal of the series is to inform the development of public policies in Salt Lake City that will be based on constituent input and factual evidence compiled through research.

On October 23, Mayor Becker will open the Dialogue series and make public the results of a recent Salt Lake City diversity and human rights survey. He will also conduct a panel discussion with leaders from the City’s diverse community.

At this initial meeting the details of subsequent Dialogues on Discrimination to be held throughout the City will be given. Speakers, times and locations will be announced for the November and December events. Each meeting will have a guest speaker who will talk about oppression and discrimination. We will then open round-table discussions facilitated by local leaders where constituents can engage in dialogue.

We invite all Salt Lake City residents to attend these Dialogues to hear and share personal accounts of discrimination.

We want to hear your stories. If you cannot attend a Dialogue but would like to share your personal experience, we invite you to write to the Mayors Office of Diversity & Human Rights:

451 S. State St. Room 306
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Also, you will soon be able to share your story anonymously online. Please help the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission assess discrimination in our city.

**Dialogue on Discrimination
Opening Announcement:**

Date: October 23, 2008
Location: 451 S. State St.
Room 326
Time: 6:00 p.m.

This announcement is free and open to the public.



Mark your calendars! Join Salt Lake City in celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights December 8-13.



The Disability Law Center: Celebrating 30 Years of Advocacy

by Eric Mitchell, Director of Community Relations
Disability Law Center

This year marks the 30th year the Disability Law Center (DLC) has been promoting the cause of justice and equality for more than 400,000 Utahns with disabilities.

In that time, DLC has provided legal advocacy services to more than 50,000 people with disabilities and their families. The DLC is honored to share information about its services in conjunction with efforts of the Mayor's Office of Diversity and Human Rights.

The DLC is the only statewide disability agency that provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, disability rights education and public policy advocacy on behalf of Utahns with disabilities. Services are provided to the community at no charge.

The Center's mission is to enforce and strengthen laws that protect the opportunities, choices and legal rights of people with disabilities in Utah. The DLC is part of the federally mandated protection and advocacy network that was established by Congress

in the late 1970s to protect the civil and human rights of people with disabilities.

Although it is not widely known, the rights of individuals with disabilities are grounded in a human rights framework based on the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

On April 25, 2000, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights adopted resolution 2000/51 which "*recognizes that any violation of the fundamental principle of equality or any discrimination or other negative differential treatment of persons with disabilities...is an infringement of the human rights of persons with disabilities.*"

The work of the Disability Law Center focuses on four long-range goals:

1. People with disabilities will be free from abuse and neglect.
2. People with disabilities will receive appropriate services.
3. People with disabilities will be free from discrimination.
4. People with disabilities will have equal employment opportunities.

It is up to each of us to contribute to the development of a just society where all people treated with equity, dignity and respect.

To learn how you can help or to find out more about DLC programs and services, call and speak with an Advocate at 1-800-662-9080 (Voice) or 1-800-550-4182 (TTY) or visit online at www.disabilitylawcenter.org.



Mark your calendars!

You are invited to participate in the DLC's 30th Anniversary and Community Justice Awards Reception on October 30, 2008. The event will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at:

The Utah Law & Justice Center
645 S. 200 East, Salt Lake City

Please RSVP to Ashley Campbell at acampbell@disabilitylawcenter.org or call (801) 363-1347



Salt Lake City

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