

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
Meeting Date: January 22, 2009**

**Action Agenda
Item No. 3-c**

SUBJECT: Proclamation Acknowledging February as "Human Relations Month"

DEPARTMENT: Human Rights and Relations & Orange County Human Relations Commission **PUBLIC HEARING: (Yes/No)**

No

ATTACHMENT(S):
Proclamation

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Shoshannah Smith 960-3877
Vivette Jeffries-Logan, Chair HRC

PURPOSE: To officially proclaim the month of February as "Human Relations Month" in Orange County.

BACKGROUND: The Governor annually proclaims the month of February as "Human Relations Month" in North Carolina. The Orange County Human Relations Commission has planned activities during the month to increase awareness of social justice issues.

On Sunday, January 25, 2009, the Human Relations Month Kickoff will be held at THE CARRBORO CENTURY CENTER in CARRBORO from 3:00 PM to 5:00PM. The theme will be "Power of the People: Race and the Environment in Orange County." The keynote speaker will be Mr. Omega R. Wilson, President of the West End Revitalization Association in Hillsborough. The Kick-Off will include a performance by the East Baile Latino Group. Light refreshments will be provided.

On Sunday, February 22, 2009 from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, the Pauli Murray Human Relations Awards Ceremony will be held at the Little Theater of New Hope Elementary School. Originally established in 1990, the Pauli Murray Human Relations Award commemorates the life and achievements of the late Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, by recognizing the civil rights and human relations accomplishments of dedicated Orange County community members. Light refreshments will be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board approved the proposed proclamation and authorize the Chair to sign.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission and Office of Human Rights and Relations have diligently served the County of Orange since 1995, and are committed to promoting equal treatment, opportunity and understanding throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the County’s Civil Rights Ordinance specifically prohibits discrimination based on an individual’s race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, veteran status and familial status; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the dignity and worth of each individual and desires to promote and maintain a climate of good will among individuals, races, ethnic groups and persons of varying social, religious and economic status, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status or status with regard to public assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Human Relations Commission encourages Orange County residents, as individuals, to take a stand against social injustice and continue to work together to make freedom, justice, and equal opportunity available for all; and

WHEREAS, Orange County is committed to preserving the progress made thus far towards equality and leading the challenge for equal opportunity using all the means at our disposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2009 as “**HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH**” in Orange County and challenge county residents to promote the ideology of social justice for all and to celebrate multiculturalism in our County by encouraging residents to embrace our diversity.

THIS THE 22nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2009.

Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners