

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
Meeting Date: December 7, 2009

Action Agenda
Item No. 3-b

SUBJECT: Proclamation from Human Relations Commission for Human Rights Week,
Human Rights Day and Bill of Rights Day

DEPARTMENT: Human Rights & Relations

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

ATTACHMENT(S):
Human Relations Commission (HRC)
Recommendation and Proposed
Proclamation

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Shoshannah Sayers, 960-3877

PURPOSE: To highlight the importance of human rights in Orange County and beyond by approving a proclamation recommended by the Human Relations Commission recognizing Human Rights Week, Human Rights Day, and Bill of Rights Day.

BACKGROUND: Each year since 2005, the Board of County Commissioners has adopted a proclamation recognizing Human Rights Week, Human Rights Day, and Bill of Rights Day. This year, Human Rights Week is December 10th – 16th; Human Rights Day is December 10th; and Bill of Rights Day is December 15th. The Orange County Human Relations Commission requests that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the attached proclamation recognizing these important milestones.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board adopt the Proclamation regarding Human Rights Week, Human Rights Day and Bill of Rights Day and authorize the Chair to sign the proclamation.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION

MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD PERRY AND SECONDED BY JAMES ANDERSON THAT THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION REGARDING BILL OF RIGHTS DAY, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the member States of the United Nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and countries of different political, economic and social systems agreed on the fundamental rights that all people share solely on the basis of their common humanity; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week were adopted by the United Nations in connection with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights Day was first declared in 1941 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to commemorate the 1791 Ratification of the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights guarantees, among other basic liberties, freedom of speech and of the press as well as freedom of religion and association; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights states that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law and establishes fundamental rules of fairness in judicial proceedings, including the right to trial by jury; and

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedoms lies with each individual in Orange County, and each of us can play a major role in enhancing human rights; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Orange County support Human Rights and recognize that the "inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace;"

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim

December 10 – 16, 2009 as HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

and

December 10, 2009 as HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

and

December 15, 2009 as BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

in Orange County and challenge our residents to study and promote the ideas contained in these documents to the end that freedom, justice, and equality shall not perish but will flourish and be made available to all.

THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

VOTE: AYES 16 (Anderson, Austin, Davenport, Harris, Jeffries-Logan, Linger, Lumpkin, Marley, Marotto, Mitchell, Nanney, Perry, Prear, Rosenbluth, Schweickert, Vqgt); NOES 0; EXCUSED 1 (Colson); ABSENT 1 (Foushee).

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION

Human Rights Week, Human Rights Day, and Bill of Rights Day

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the member States of the United Nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and countries of different political, economic and social systems agreed on the fundamental rights that all people share solely on the basis of their common humanity; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Day and Human Rights Week were adopted by the United Nations in connection with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights Day was first declared in 1941 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to commemorate the 1791 Ratification of the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights guarantees, among other basic liberties, freedom of speech and of the press as well as freedom of religion and association; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights states that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law and establishes fundamental rules of fairness in judicial proceedings, including the right to trial by jury; and

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility to promote respect for these rights and freedoms lies with each individual in Orange County, and each of us can play a major role in enhancing human rights; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Orange County support Human Rights and recognize that the "inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace;"

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim

December 10 – 16, 2009 as **HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK**

and

December 10, 2009 as **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

and

December 15, 2009 as **BILL OF RIGHTS DAY**

in Orange County and challenge our residents to study and promote the ideas contained in these documents to the end that freedom, justice, and equality shall not perish but will flourish and be made available to all.

THIS THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2009.

Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners