

## CITY OF DECATUR HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015

#### INTRODUCTION

Included in this report is a summary of this year's data on complaints filed with the Human Relations Commission; highlights of the Human Relations Commission for this fiscal year; and a letter from the Human Relations Commission Chair for fiscal year 2015.

Under the provisions of Chapter 28 UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION, there are nine members who serve as Human Relations Commissioners, appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent by the City Council. All Commissioners serve without compensation. The Human Rights Investigator is an independent contractor who the City pays to review and investigate claims that are turned in to the Human Resources

office. This individual serves as a liaison to the Commission. The Commission meets at 3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the City Council Chambers. The meetings are open to the public.

At the end of the fiscal year, the Human Relations Commission consisted of seven commissioners;

Derrick Thaxton (Chair), Ron Callow, Mary Gendry, Curtis Johnson, Joyce Keller, Verzell Taylor and Robert Whitten. Two positions remain vacant.

Commissioner, Carletha Currie, left the Commission during this fiscal year because she moved out of the area. Commissioner Steve Grimm (Vice Chair) chose not to be reappointed after his term expired during fiscal year 2015.

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#### Summary of Cases (March 1 to December 10, 2015)

| Case No. | Filing Date | Nature                                                       | Disposition                                                                       |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 250410   | 4/10/2015   | Disability discrimination in employment (discharge)          | Charge filed                                                                      |
|          |             |                                                              | Investigation started.                                                            |
|          |             |                                                              | Settlement was achieved.                                                          |
| 150605   | 6/5/2015    | Race discrimination in employment (conditions of employment) | Charge filed.                                                                     |
|          |             |                                                              | Investigation concluded.                                                          |
|          |             |                                                              | Dismissed due to lack of evidence.                                                |
|          |             |                                                              | Complainant may request review of dismissal.                                      |
| 150629   | 6/29/2015   | Race discrimination in employment (discharge)                | Charge filed.                                                                     |
|          |             |                                                              | Investigation concluded.                                                          |
|          |             |                                                              | Dismissed due to lack of evidence                                                 |
| 150720   | 7/20/2015   | Race discrimination in employment (conditions of employment) | Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction (alleged acts not covered in Ordinance).    |
| 150724   | 7/24/2015   | Race discrimination in employment (discharge)                | Dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction (work site located outside of city limits). |
| 151109   | 11/9/2015   | Race discrimination in employment (discharge)                | Charge filed.                                                                     |
|          |             |                                                              | Awaiting response from employer.                                                  |
| 151123   | 11/23/2015  | Race discrimination in employment (discharge)                | Pending return call from Complainant to schedule initial interview.               |

There were no cases brought before the Human Relations Commission in a public hearing.

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### **FY 2015 HIGHLIGHTS**

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee held a very successful luncheon at the Decatur Club on Saturday, January 17. The speaker was Secretary of State Jesse White. The annual Freedom March was held on Monday, January 19, with a program following at St. Patrick Catholic Church.

The Commission recognized Black History month on Saturday, February 28, with a program at the Decatur Club. Mr. Daryl Van Leer, presented a one man play titled, "Mandela: Let Freedom Reign", which is based on the life of President Nelson Mandela.

The Human Relations Commission informational brochures were updated in November, and were distributed throughout the community.

The Commission continued recording its monthly meetings for broadcast on Channel 18 cable and the City's website.