

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31532

A RESOLUTION recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and reaffirming the City of Seattle's unwavering commitment to civil rights, equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all.

WHEREAS, July 2, 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the landmark Civil Rights Act banning discrimination based on race, religion, sex, and national origin and outlawing segregation based on race in schools, work and public facilities;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe equity is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy and a moral imperative to the actions of local government that contribute to the health and well-being of everyone in our city;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has long been a national leader on civil rights and is proud of its history of protecting the civil liberties and civil rights of all residents and affirming the fundamental rights of all people;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is proud to have enacted measures that create an expansive list of protected classes for illegal discrimination based on age, ancestry, breastfeeding in public, color, creed, disability, gender identity, marital status, national origin, parental status, political ideology, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, use of Section 8 housing certificates, use of service animal and military or veteran status;

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 paved the way and opened the door to future civil rights legislation at the Federal and State level to advance equality in our society including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and the Washington State Marriage Equality Law of 2012;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative is a commitment to realizing the vision of racial equity in our community; and

WHEREAS, local government leadership is and will always be necessary to achieve equity in the community, and it is also imperative for local government to work in collaboration with regional and national partners, both within government and across sectors to advance civil rights and equal opportunity for everyone; NOW, THEREFORE,

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1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
2 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

3 Section 1. The City of Seattle will observe July 2, 2014 with appropriate attention in
4 celebration and recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The City of Seattle
5 hereby reaffirms its commitment to civil rights, equal opportunity and freedom from
6 discrimination for all. Through the work of all City Offices and Departments and in particular
7 under the coordination, enforcement and policy work of the Office for Civil Rights, the City of
8 Seattle shall strive to eliminate discrimination and achieve a just society for all.

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10 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and
11 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
12 of _____, 2014.

13 _____
14 President _____ of the City Council

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16 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

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19 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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21 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

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24 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

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26 (Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Office of the Mayor	Mike Fong/5-1675	N/A

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and reaffirming the City of Seattle's unwavering commitment to civil rights, equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all.

Summary of the Legislation: The resolution observes July 2, 2014 as the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. The resolution also reaffirms the City's commitment to civil rights, equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all. Through the work of all City Offices and Departments and in particular under the coordination, enforcement and policy work of the Office for Civil Rights, the City of Seattle shall strive to eliminate discrimination and achieve a just society for all.

Background: The Civil Rights Act banned discrimination based on race, religion, sex, and national origin and outlawing segregation based on race in schools, work and public facilities. It was the catalyst for future civil rights legislation at the Federal and State level to advance equality in our society including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and the Washington State Marriage Equality Law of 2012.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

This legislation has financial implications.



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Mayor

June 24, 2014

Honorable Tim Burgess
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Burgess:

I am pleased to transmit the attached Resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. This landmark legislation signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964 paved the way for the next 50 years of progress toward creating a more equitable and just society in the United States. It is appropriate that this city, long a leader in advancing the guiding principles of the Civil Rights Act, formally observe this important date in our nation's history.

This Resolution celebrates the work we have accomplished but acknowledges that much more needs to be done and local leadership will be critical if we are to realize our ultimate vision of eliminating discrimination and achieving a just society for all.

I want to thank the Council for considering this Resolution. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Fong in my Office of Policy and Innovation at 615-1675.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward B. Murray", written in a cursive style.

Edward B. Murray
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council