

News Release

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Human Rights Commission Hosting Public Forum

Rock Island's Human Rights Commission will sponsor a public forum on human rights in the city on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 630 9th Street. The commission is interested in hearing from Rock Island citizens on matters of human rights as they may affect employment, housing, finance/credit, public education, economic opportunity, and quality of life.

Kai Swanson, Chair of the Human Rights Commission comments, "One of Rock Island's greatest advantages over other communities is its diversity. Removing any barriers to full participation in our community maximizes the benefit of this diversity, engages more people in the life and leadership of the community, and enhances our competitive advantage as a 21st century community."

Rock Island's Human Rights Commission is a twelve-member body appointed by the City to help eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on race, color, creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status, physical or mental disability, and military status, and to safeguard the rights of citizens as defined by local, state and federal law. One of the objectives of the Commission is to work for greater citizen participation in planning and execution of public policy in all phases of municipal life. The forum is intended to support this objective by offering an opportunity for Rock Island citizens to provide direct input to the Commission on human rights issues.

Mr. Swanson continues, "While the Commission's twelve members are well representative of Rock Island, we recognize the importance of listening to the community. This not only helps us learn about issues of which we may not be aware, it also gives us a better understanding of the community's priorities."