

# Executive Document

## Governor's Executive Order Reauthorizing the State of Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission.

Issued: November 30, 1999

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### EXECUTIVE ORDER

Reauthorizing the State of Utah Martin Luther King Jr.  
Human Rights Commission

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. summoned the best qualities that guide and sustain the American spirit and our nation's commitment of equality and justice, freedom, and peace; and

WHEREAS, he awakened the necessary goodness of our people and led a nonviolent movement that enriched our moral purpose as a nation; and

WHEREAS, this human rights movement advocated nonviolent methods of social change in the struggle for justice, equality, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, he raised the consciousness of our country through his personal dream of a nation where all people are judged, not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was recognized on November 2, 1983, by the United States Congress and the President in the enactment of legislation establishing the third Monday in January as a national holiday in celebration of Dr. King's birthday, beginning in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah recognizes the significance of Dr. King's life and accomplishments and the State Legislature passed S.B. 17 in 1986, which set aside the third Monday in January to observe as the anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., known as Human Rights Day; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission was created by executive order on July 1, 1991;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael O. Leavitt, Governor of the State of Utah, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Utah, do hereby reauthorize the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission as follows:

1. There is created the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission.
2. The Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission shall promote Human Rights Day holiday by:
  - A. Encouraging appropriate ceremonies and activities commemorating the federal holiday which occurs on the third Monday of January each year.

B. Provide advice and assistance to governments and private organizations on the observance of this federal holiday.

C. Coordinate efforts with Americans of diverse backgrounds and with private organizations on the observance of the holiday.

D. Seek to involve all sectors, private and public, in a conscious effort to promote diversity, equity, and human rights.

3. The Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission shall promote the principles of human rights by:

A. Working diligently to promote education and awareness of the principles of human rights for all.

B. Conducting workshops and training in human rights to be utilized by public and private sectors and school systems.

C. Partnering with Public Education to assist public schools in promoting appropriate events to honor human rights and the holiday.

D. Promoting training in the principles of nonviolence.

E. Serving as a resource for state government so it can increase or improve its level of responsiveness to human rights.

4. The Commission shall be organized as follows:

A. The Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) members representing the diversity of the State of Utah appointed by the governor to four year terms. The governor may adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms of board members are staggered so that approximately one half of the board is appointed every two years.

B. The members of the Commission may not serve more than two consecutive four year terms.

C. When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the replacement shall be appointed by the governor for the unexpired term.

D. The governor shall appoint one of the members as chair.

E. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly or more often if necessary as determined by the Commission chair or at the request of the governor.

F. Eight members of the Commission constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

G. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation or benefits for their services, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Utah Code Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107. Members may decline to receive per diem and expenses for their service.

5. The Commission shall forward an annual report to the governor.

6. The Division of Community Development shall provide oversight and administrative support to the Commission contingent upon appropriations from the Legislature.

7. This supersedes all previous Executive Orders related to this Commission.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah this 30th day of November, 1999.

(State Seal)

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

ATTEST:

Olene S. Walker  
Lieutenant Governor

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