



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission to Receive Torch of Freedom Award**

ACLU of Utah to Recognize the Commission's Contributions to Commission's Civil Liberties Efforts

SALT LAKE CITY -- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Utah will present the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission (HRC) with the Torch of Freedom Award at their 2010 Bill of Rights Celebration on May 1, 2010. Presented annually to community leaders who have shown a commitment to advancing the cause of civil liberties in the State of Utah, the award will recognize the HRC's involvement in Salt Lake City's nondiscrimination ordinances.

When selecting the Human Rights Commission as the award recipients, The ACLU of Utah highlighted the contributions of the HRC's "Dialogues on Discrimination," a series of forums and community outreach efforts held in 2008 and 2009 to document and examine the harms caused by discriminatory policies and practices in Salt Lake City. The dialogues precipitated the Commission's discrimination report to Mayor Ralph Becker and the City Council and laid the groundwork for the development and passage of Salt Lake City's nondiscrimination ordinances in November 2009. The legislation is tailored to confront clear cases of discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Since their passage, the ordinances have served as templates for leaders in other municipalities throughout the region and nation to consider as they develop nondiscrimination policies for their own communities.

"The work done by the Human Rights Commission demonstrates the City's commitment to foster an environment of good will and acceptance," said Mayor Ralph Becker. "This award reflects the Commission's dedication creating a community of inclusion where every member of is an integral part of our Great American City."

The very existence of the Human Rights Commission celebrates the importance of diversity in Salt Lake City," said Human Rights Commission Chair Jennifer Mayer-Glenn. "We are honored to be recognized for our efforts as we continue to work toward a city free from discrimination and prejudice."

In the upcoming year, the HRC will work with Office of Diversity and Human Rights and launch the Mayor's Antidiscrimination Campaign to more proactively address racial discrimination in Salt Lake City

by addressing workers' rights and educating the City's increasingly diverse workforce about their rights in the workplace. The Commission will also be facilitating further dialogue through "Courageous Conversations about Race" and a report on racial discrimination to follow.

**About the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission**

The Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission was established in 2005 to eliminate discrimination in Salt Lake City by reviewing current and pending legislation and policy, review complaints of discrimination, make recommendations, and foster partnerships for nondiscrimination education. The Human Rights Commission works closely with the Mayor's Office of Diversity and Human Rights to cultivate the breadth and depth of its mission to help Salt Lake City become a leader for equality and human rights. For more information about the Human Rights Commission, visit [www.slcgov.com/mayor/divHR/comm](http://www.slcgov.com/mayor/divHR/comm). To learn more about the ACLU of Utah and its work, please visit [www.acluutah.org](http://www.acluutah.org).

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