STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 27-2006

EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING MONTANA'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CIVIL RIGHTS HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Montana have, through our constitution, committed ourselves to principles of equality for all Montana's citizens. As stated in the preamble: "We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution"; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor John Bohlinger eloquently reflected on the need for this Advisory Council as he testified before the Montana Legislature in 2005, when he said, "People do not choose to be physically or mentally impaired, they do not choose their gender or sexual orientation. We are what we are, as God created us and as a child of God we are entitled to protection from harm"; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished civil rights leader, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his life to peaceful actions that would ensure civil rights for all American citizens, regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion, social position or sexual orientation and died in pursuit of this just cause; and

WHEREAS, now, as a State, we set aside the third Monday in January to honor Rev. King's legacy and to seek the full inclusion and participation of all Montanans as they pursue hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, at this time in history it is appropriate to once again commit our State and its citizens to the noble principles of compassion, improved quality of life and freedom for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby create Montana's Advisory Council on Civil Rights honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. as provided in this Executive Order.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

A. seek to involve all Montanans in efforts to promote and welcome diversity in our communities;

B. encourage education, ceremonies, activities and community service promoting Reverend King's legacy of liberty, compassion and freedom throughout communities in Montana;

C. provide advice and assistance to individuals, governments and private organizations concerning the importance of protecting civil rights; and

D. advise the Governor on policy issues of inclusivity and civil rights.

COMPOSITION:

The Advisory Council shall consist of seven voting members and up to seven non-voting members. The names and addresses of members will be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State. Members shall reflect the rich diversity of Montana's citizenry and communities. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the Advisory Council members.

The Advisory Council is attached to the Office of Community Service, established under § 90-14-103, MCA, for administrative purposes.

COMPENSATION:

Advisory Council members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated by the Office of Community Service in an amount to be determined by the director of the Office, not to exceed $25 for each day in which the member is actually and necessarily engaged in the performance of Advisory Council duties. All members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

DURATION:

This Order is effective January 16, 2006. The Council shall exist for a period of two years from the effective date of this Order.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 13th day of January, 2006.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:

for BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State