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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Sam Smith, President
Seattle City Council
VIA: Ken Bounds, Budget Director,
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Mayor Charles Royer

SUBJECT: Ordinance Establishing Commission for Lesbians
and Gay Men

This memorandum forwards an ordinance amending SMC 3.14.900, relating to the Office for Women's Rights, to establish a Commission for Lesbians and Gay Men.

I am initiating this legislation at the recommendation of the Mayor's Lesbian/Gay Task Force and with the concurrence of the Office for Women's Rights (OWR) and Seattle Women's Commission.

In 1985, I established an 11-member task force to advise my office about issues affecting the lesbian/gay community. During the past four years, the task force has developed as a knowledgeable and effective advisory body. Among its accomplishments are:

- o creation of the AIDS Funding Coalition;
- o assistance in the establishment of People of Color Against AIDS Network;
- o establishment of the Lavender Panthers, a nonprofit organization serving elderly lesbians and gay men;
- o development of an advocacy program to assist persons who have experienced discrimination. More than 30 advocates have been trained;
- o development of a training model for City departments and community organizations; and
- o leadership in the development and passage of the Family Leave Ordinance.

MEMORANDUM

The critical work of the task force in identifying and advising me on emerging civil and human rights issues in this community has persuaded me of the need for a permanent advisory body for lesbians and gay men in Seattle. The attached ordinance will establish this commission as follows:

- o It establishes a 15-member Commission for Lesbians and Gay Men parallel in its structure and reporting relationships to the existing Seattle Women's Commission.
- o It provides for staffing by the Office for Women's Rights. I anticipate no fiscal impact because an OWR staff member is currently assigned to work with the task force and her assignment is not expected to be affected by this change.
- o It provides an appointment and confirmation process. To provide for continuity in working with the Mayor and Council, it stipulates that 11 current members of the Mayor's Gay and Lesbian Task Force will be included in the initial appointments to the Commission.

This new commission will continue the work of the existing Mayor's Lesbian/Gay Task Force. It is being established to meet the ongoing needs of the Mayor and City Council for advice and policy recommendations to insure that members of the lesbian and gay community participate fully and freely in our community.

JBk

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