

OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF IOWA

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE May 3, 2007 Contact: Andy Nielsen 515/281-5834

Auditor of State David A. Vaudt today released a report on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission for the year ended June 30, 2006.

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is charged with investigating, holding hearings and rendering decisions on any complaints of unfair or discriminatory practices in public accommodations, employment, credit, housing, apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training programs and vocational schools on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin or disability; and with planning and conducting programs designed to eliminate racial, religious, cultural and intergroup tensions.

Vaudt recommended the Commission deposit 90% of all receipts within ten business days of collection to comply with Code requirements. Vaudt also recommended the Commission review attendance of appointed commission members for compliance with Code requirements.

A copy of the report is available for review in the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, in the Office of Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State's web site at http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/reports.htm.

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REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

JUNE 30, 2006

AUDITOR OF STATE

State Capitol Building • Des Moines, Iowa



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April 30, 2007

To Ralph Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission:

The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is a part of the State of Iowa and, as such, has been included in our audits of the State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the State's Single Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 2006.

In conducting our audits, we became aware of certain aspects concerning the Commission's operations for which we believe corrective action is necessary. As a result, we have developed recommendations which are reported on the following page. We believe you should be aware of these recommendations pertaining to the Commission's compliance with statutory requirements and other matters. These recommendations have been discussed with Commission personnel and their responses to these recommendations are included in this report.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials and employees of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, citizens of the State of Iowa and other parties to whom the Iowa Civil Rights Commission may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the Commission during the course of our audits. Should you have questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience. Individuals who participated in our audits of the Commission are listed on page 5 and they are available to discuss these matters with you.

DAVID A. VAUDT, CPA Auditor of State WARREN G. JENKINS, CPA Chief Deputy Auditor of State

cc: Honorable Chester J. Culver, Governor

Charles J. Krogmeier, Director, Department of Management

Dennis C. Prouty, Director, Legislative Services Agency

Report of Recommendations to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission

June 30, 2006

Findings Reported in the State's Single Audit Report:

No matters were noted.

Finding Related to Internal Control:

No matters were noted.

Findings Related to Statutory Requirements and Other Matters:

(1) <u>Commission Meeting Attendance</u> – The Iowa Civil Rights Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. According to Chapter 69.15 of the Code of Iowa, any person who has been appointed by the Governor to any board shall be deemed to have submitted a resignation if the person does not attend three or more consecutive regular meetings or the person attends less than one-half of the regular meetings within any period of twelve calendar months beginning on July 1 or January 1.

The attendance of one member of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission did not comply with these attendance requirements.

<u>Recommendation</u> – The Executive Director should review the attendance of appointed Commission members for compliance with the requirements and determine action to be taken.

<u>Response</u> – Commission had moved to increase virtual meetings. To increase attendance, we have changed the meeting days and times to better accommodate the diverse schedules. Director will again talk with Commissioners about attendance policies. Director will review with new Commissioners.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Response acknowledged. The Commission should comply with the Code of Iowa.

(2) <u>Receipt Deposits</u> - Chapter 12.10 of the Code of Iowa requires each Department of the State to deposit with the Treasurer of State 90% of all fees, commissions and moneys received within ten days succeeding the collection. Thirty-one of thirty-eight checks tested were not deposited within ten business days as required.

<u>Recommendation</u> – The Commission should ensure all receipts are deposited within ten business days of collection.

<u>Response</u> – The Commission will begin to cross train staff. The Commission, depending upon final appropriation decisions, may also be able to hire a part time support person who will free up the time of the sole Commissions' staff person currently in charge of this step.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

Report of Recommendations to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission

June 30, 2006

Staff:

Questions or requests for further assistance should be directed to:

Suzanne R. Hanft, CPA, Manager Michelle L. Harris, Staff Auditor Andrew E. Nielsen, CPA, Deputy Auditor of State

Other individuals who participated on the audits include:

Gelu Sherpa, Assistant Auditor