



and facilities that are of concern to the African Heritage community;

- (b) To serve as a forum for citizen involvement and expressions on issues affecting the community;
- (c) To identify and apply for funds and grants on behalf of the African Heritage community;
- (d) To make recommendations to the city council regarding community development planning;
- (e) To recommend to the city council legislation that empowers and promotes African Heritage community development;
- (f) To increase public understanding and acceptance of the African Heritage community and culture;
- (g) To develop a process to institutionalize a dialog with the city council, the mayor's office and city departments;
- (h) To foster programs that will increase African Heritage community involvement in all aspects of community affairs;
- (i) To develop research and information about African-American heritage and the African Heritage community;
- (j) To establish community development objectives and policies;
- (k) To develop a strategic plan for the African Heritage community.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its passage and publication.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This ordinance establishes an African Heritage commission to assist the administration and city council develop policies and programs to increase the African Heritage community involvement in all aspects of community affairs in Duluth. Duluth is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in public policy and values the principles of health and fairness. The city of Duluth has worked hard to address historical discrimination and racism in our community; we continue to see African Heritage community members disproportionately facing poverty and decreased life expectancies across our neighborhoods. The legacy of systemic racism still lingers in our community, inequitable policies continue to impact the health, welfare, safety, education, economic wealth and wellness of African Heritage community members. By creating, supporting and sustaining an African Heritage commission the city will ensure that decision making, future planning, services, workforce and policy decisions are fair and equitable, valuing diversity and inclusion. The city of Duluth is committed in fostering a path forward for relevant and adequate representation in decision making within all aspects of community affairs.