TO: County Commissioners
FROM: Michael Brillhart, County Administration
DATE: March 16, 2015
RE: Establishment of a Human Rights Advisory Subcommittee

The Human Rights Commission “Coordinator” position is currently being served by an independent contractor. The term for this contract is valid through the end of June 2015. Within the proposed County Fiscal Year 2016 budget is a recommendation to structure the “Coordinator” within the Human Services Department budget as a designated county employee position.

Revisions to the original 2005 Human Rights Commission enabling legislation were granted by the County in 2008 through Ordinance 08-12. This particular Ordinance is attached for your review.

It is recommended that an Advisory Subcommittee be established to discuss possible amendments to Ordinance 08-12. Any amendment would be in the form of specific recommendations for review, consideration and adoption by the Board of County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates.

Purpose of the Advisory Subcommittee:
The purpose of the Advisory Subcommittee is to consider and recommend potential amendments to Ordinance 08-12 specific to the consolidation of the Human Rights Coordinator position under the Human Services Department as a county employee position in consideration of the proposed FY16 budget. Any such recommendations would need review by County Counsel in compliance with the County Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code.

Term of the Advisory Subcommittee:
The term of the Subcommittee should be in effect until the completion of a report recommending specific changes to Ordinance 08-12. Recommendations must be submitted to the County Commissioners on or before June 3, 2015.

Advisory Subcommittee Membership:
The establishment of a short-term “Advisory Subcommittee” shall be comprised of not less than five (5) members consisting of the following designees:

1. Two members from the Human Rights Commission
2. The Human Services Director
3. One representative from the Assembly of Delegates
4. A representative from County Administration (or nominee)
5. Two at-large members nominated by the County Commissioners

Suggested Motion:

Motion that the Barnstable County Commissioners establish a “Human Rights Advisory Subcommittee” that will make formal recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on proposed amendments to Ordinance 08-12 in consideration of the purpose, term and member composition as described above.