FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012
MEDIA CONTACT:
David Miree, Policy and Communications (415) 252-2502

***** PRESS RELEASE****

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission Continues City’s Legacy of Equality, Acceptance and Inclusion for All as Agency Commemorates Universal Human Rights Day

SF-HRC is one of the country’s oldest human rights organizations-2014 marks 50 years of distinguished service

2012 Community Collaborative and City Partnerships yield creation of African American Community Empowerment Initiative, Comprehensive Transgender Healthcare Inclusion and LGBTQ Youth Cultural Competency Training amongst other successful endeavors

Agency rolls out re-vamped website and debuts new web podcast

(San Francisco, CA)- Monday, December 10, 2012 is “Universal Human Rights Day” and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) is pleased to join other human rights organizations around the world in celebration of diversity, equality, and acceptance for all. The day also marks the sixty fourth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was drafted to promote and advance all forms of global humanitarianism and is considered the most translated document in modern history. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (Agency) is one of the country’s oldest human rights organizations and is highly regarded both nationally and internationally for its ground breaking and innovative advocacy that often results in new public policy considerations aimed toward enhancing the quality of life for all vulnerable communities in San Francisco and beyond.

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the SFHRC noted, “Universal Human Rights awareness has never been more important especially as we now live in a global society that continues to break down and reject geographical and cultural boundaries of the past that have precluded equality and justice for all people. I am proud of all the work the San Francisco Human Rights Commission has contributed toward supporting the construct of global solidarity and we remain dedicated to our mission of advocating for and protecting the fundamental civil liberties of all people in San Francisco and beyond so they may experience life to its greatest potential and free of oppression.”

Michael Sweet, SFHR Commission Chair expressed, "As a standard-bearer among human rights organizations, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is proud to stand with its sister-organizations around the world in recognizing Universal Human Rights Day. We look forward to a time when racism, bigotry and discrimination will be a thing of the past. Until that day we will continue to work in our communities and support efforts across the nation and throughout the world to eradicate injustice wherever it may appear."

Some of the Agency’s most notable efforts in 2012 included establishing the African American Community Empowerment Initiative, Comprehensive Transgender Healthcare Inclusion and LGBTQ Youth Cultural Competency Training amongst other successful endeavors.

Agency rolls out re-vamped website and debuts new web podcast

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2012
MEDIA CONTACT:
David Miree, Policy and Communications (415) 252-2502

***** PRESS RELEASE****

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission Continues City’s Legacy of Equality, Acceptance and Inclusion for All as Agency Commemorates Universal Human Rights Day

SF-HRC is one of the country’s oldest human rights organizations-2014 marks 50 years of distinguished service

2012 Community Collaborative and City Partnerships yield creation of African American Community Empowerment Initiative, Comprehensive Transgender Healthcare Inclusion and LGBTQ Youth Cultural Competency Training amongst other successful endeavors

Agency rolls out re-vamped website and debuts new web podcast

(San Francisco, CA)- Monday, December 10, 2012 is “Universal Human Rights Day” and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) is pleased to join other human rights organizations around the world in celebration of diversity, equality, and acceptance for all. The day also marks the sixty fourth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was drafted to promote and advance all forms of global humanitarianism and is considered the most translated document in modern history. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (Agency) is one of the country’s oldest human rights organizations and is highly regarded both nationally and internationally for its ground breaking and innovative advocacy that often results in new public policy considerations aimed toward enhancing the quality of life for all vulnerable communities in San Francisco and beyond.

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the SFHRC noted, “Universal Human Rights awareness has never been more important especially as we now live in a global society that continues to break down and reject geographical and cultural boundaries of the past that have precluded equality and justice for all people. I am proud of all the work the San Francisco Human Rights Commission has contributed toward supporting the construct of global solidarity and we remain dedicated to our mission of advocating for and protecting the fundamental civil liberties of all people in San Francisco and beyond so they may experience life to its greatest potential and free of oppression.”

Michael Sweet, SFHR Commission Chair expressed, "As a standard-bearer among human rights organizations, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is proud to stand with its sister-organizations around the world in recognizing Universal Human Rights Day. We look forward to a time when racism, bigotry and discrimination will be a thing of the past. Until that day we will continue to work in our communities and support efforts across the nation and throughout the world to eradicate injustice wherever it may appear."

Some of the Agency’s most notable efforts in 2012 included establishing the African American Community
Empowerment Initiative and the African American Leadership Council created to foster greater city-wide cultural competency and programs geared to both retain and attract African Americans in and to the city. The HRC, in collaboration with the City’s Department of Public Health (DPH), Health Commission and District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener was successful in advocating for the inclusion of comprehensive healthcare for the City’s Transgender Community (the first of its kind in the nation) in the Healthy SF Program.

Also in partnership with DPH and the Youth Commission, the HRC collaborated to create a LGBTQ Youth cultural competency and sensitivity training module for City service providers and agents. The soon to be released training video was created in response to the City’s 12(N) Ordinance. The Agency also recently convened a roundtable discussion with the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, DPH and Human Rights Watch, which led to law enforcement officials reviewing its policy on condoms as evidence with the intent of balancing law enforcement concerns with health and human rights concerns related to the sex workers industry in the City.

Also this past year in an effort to better inform the public and foster greater community outreach, the HRC revamped its website and created a quarterly podcast aimed at highlighting the Department’s on-going initiatives which cover a range of issues including the Sanctuary City Ordinance, barriers facing persons with arrest and conviction records, discussions in the LGBT community, human trafficking events and collaboratives, and other current events concerning civil and human rights discourse in San Francisco.

The HRC is dedicated to building upon these successful collaboratives and endeavors in 2013 and looks forward to continuing its leadership in human rights advocacy and giving a voice to all the City’s vulnerable and underserved communities. For more information regarding the HRC please visit the website at www.sf-hrc.org.

*****

The Human Rights Commission was established in 1964 by City Ordinance and became a Charter Commission in 1990. In 2014 the HRC will celebrate 50 years of distinguished public service in human rights advocacy for the City and County of San Francisco.