



City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

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September 20, 2017

Omaha, NE – Mayor Jean Stothert has selected Dr. Franklin Thompson, a veteran Omaha City Council member, community leader and educator, to lead the City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department.

Dr. Thompson's areas of expertise are race relations, human relations, multicultural education, conflict management and counseling.

"I have worked with Dr. Thompson for eight years, first as colleagues on the Omaha City Council and later as Mayor," said Mayor Stothert. "He has the unique mix of professional, academic and management skills to assist citizens and lead the staff of the Human Rights and Relations Department."

The Human Rights and Relations (HRR) Department investigates discrimination complaints and civil rights violations, conducts community outreach to promote diversity, provides administrative support to several volunteer boards and commissions, administers the certification process for the Small and Emerging Business program and monitors city contracts for compliance with the city's economic inclusion requirements.

"While making our city great is often viewed in terms of the resources invested in erecting brick-and-mortar structures and getting businesses to relocate to the metro area, the real test of community-building is realized when we put our best efforts into helping people realize that our lives, our goals, and our dreams are interdependent on one another," said Dr. Thompson.

After four terms, Thompson retired from the Omaha City Council after representing District 6 from 2001-2017. He joined the UNO faculty in 1993 and is a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Education. His previous academic experience includes Director of Diversity at Creighton Prep High School and teaching and counseling positions at Blackburn and Burke High Schools.

He holds an M.S. in counseling psychology, an Ed.S. to be a school principal, and an Ed.D. in school superintendency. He has published numerous articles and facilitated national workshops on race relations, human relations and multicultural education.

Dr. Thompson will initially work part-time as the Human Rights and Relations Director until the end of the year to complete his teaching responsibilities at UNO. In January, he will transition to full-time employment with the City of Omaha and a part-time teaching position. His annual salary will be \$140,000.

In June, after leaving the Omaha City Council, the City of Omaha Pension Board approved Thompson's monthly pension. Dr. Thompson will return the pension payments already received to be eligible for the full-time appointment to Human Rights and Relations Director. He will begin the new position immediately.

An Assistant Human Rights and Relations Director will also be hired. The job posting is available at <https://hr.cityofomaha.org>. The application deadline is October 3.