WHEREAS, the State of New York is committed to ensuring that all its citizens are afforded equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life free of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York is committed to eliminating discrimination against its citizens on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, and disability through vigorous enforcement of the State Human Rights Law; and

WHEREAS, the State is committed to encouraging harmonious relations between racial, religious and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a State-wide Advisory Council will effectuate the purposes of the State Human Rights Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mario M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New York, do hereby order as follows:

I. New York State Human Rights Advisory Council

There is hereby created a Council to be known as the New York State Human Rights Advisory Council (the "Council"). The members of the Council shall be designated by the Governor to two-year terms except that half of the Council upon initial constitution shall serve a one-year term to provide for staggered appointments. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor. The members of the Council shall receive no compensation.

II. Purposes and Responsibilities of the Council

The Council will:

1. Encourage and promote the development and execution of programs to ensure that every individual shall have an equal opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of life within New York State.

2. Assist the State Division of Human Rights (the "Division") in development of programs to promote greater understanding between citizens of the State and to foster harmonious relationships between members of different racial, ethnic and religious groups.

3. Study specific problems of discrimination, as identified by the Governor or the Commissioner of Human Rights, and make recommendations for the development of policies and procedures.

4. Disseminate information about the Division's activities to organizations and individuals in localities.
5. Assist the Division in its development of human rights plans and policies for the State and make recommendations concerning their execution.

III. Reports

The Human Rights Advisory Council shall report on a regular basis on its activities to the Commissioner of Human Rights. It shall report annually to the Commissioner and the Governor on its accomplishments during the prior year and make recommendations.

GIVEN under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this thirteenth day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred eighty-four.

THE GOVERNOR

Michael J. DeWitt
Secretary to the Governor

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED JAN 13 1984

Secretary of State