

Spanish Speaking Peoples Commission

John A. Rodriguez, administrator; First Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515-281-4080

WILFREDO AZUL LA LUZ, Sioux City; term expires 1989
 DR. NANCY BARCELO, Iowa City; term expires 1989
 CRISTINA M. GONZALES, Des Moines; term expires 1989
 SYLVIA RODRIGUEZ, Davenport; term expires 1989
 STEFFEN W. SCHMIDT, Ames; term expires 1989
 JUANITA WRIGHT, Cedar Falls; term expires 1989
 VACANCY
 VACANCY
 VACANCY

In 1976, the Spanish Speaking Peoples Commission was created by the General Assembly to act as an advocacy and advisory agency for Spanish-speaking Iowans in certain areas of concern, including education, employment, health, housing, administration of justice, welfare, and recreation.

The nine-member commission, appointed by the governor, sets policy and direction for the staff. As of July 1, 1986, the staff support for the commission is provided by the Division for Spanish Speaking People, part of the Department of Human Rights. The division administrator is appointed by the governor with Senate confirmation. Its mandate set forth in Chapter 16, *Code of Iowa* (1977) was amended assigning additional responsibilities for recommending interpreters for use by Iowa courts.

Status of Blacks, Commission on the

Gary Lawson, administrator; Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines 50319; 515-281-5960

DR. LENOLA ALLEN-SOMMERVILLE, Des Moines; term expires 1992
 VERNON A. AVANT, Des Moines; term expires 1992
 YVONNE J. BROCKINTON, Bettendorf; term expires 1990
 GERALD FIELDS, Sioux City; term expires 1992
 JONATHAN R. NARCISSE, Des Moines; term expires 1990
 MARY POWERS, Cedar Falls; term expires 1992
 DEATRA R. ROBINSON, Des Moines; term expires 1992
 GEORGE A. ROSSUM, Council Bluffs; term expires 1990
 MC KENZLY WILSON, Cedar Rapids; term expires 1990

The Commission on the Status of Blacks was created by statute in 1988. The nine-member commission, appointed by the governor, sets policy and direction for the staff who comprise the Status of Blacks Division within the Department of Human Rights. The division administrator is appointed by the governor with Senate confirmation.

The objectives of the commission include studying the changing needs and problems of black Iowans and recommending new programs, policies, and constructive action to the governor and the General Assembly in such areas as:

1. Public and private employment policies and practices.
2. Iowa labor laws.
3. Legal treatment relating to political and civil rights.
4. Black children, youth, and families.
5. Expanded programs to assist blacks as consumers.
6. The employment of blacks and the initiation and sustention of black businesses and black entrepreneurship.
7. Blacks as members of private and public boards, committees, and organizations.
8. Education, health, housing, social welfare, human rights, and recreation.
9. The legal system, including law enforcement, both criminal and civil.
10. Social service programs.

Duties of the commission include:

1. Serving as an information clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist blacks.
2. Conducting conferences and training programs for blacks, public and private agencies and organizations, and the general public.
3. Coordinating, assisting, and cooperating with public and private agencies in efforts to expand equal rights and opportunities for blacks in the areas of: employment, economic development, education, health, housing, recreation, social welfare, social