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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 18, 2016

**Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Hosts Public Accommodations & the ADA: Rights and Responsibilities of the Business Owner Training**

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – July 18, 2016 – The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, in partnership with the Great Plains ADA Center and the Cedar Rapids Public Library, will host a training entitled Public Accommodations & the ADA: Rights and Responsibilities of the Business Owner. This complimentary training will be held on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Public Library in the Whipple Auditorium.

This past April, the Commission created a public service announcement focusing on service animals as they relate to the Fair Housing Act. As a result, the Commission has received inquiries regarding the use of service animals in public places such as restaurants, taverns, and other retail establishments. Public Accommodations are governed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Code. In an effort to address questions received from the public, the Commission partnered with the Great Plains ADA Center and the Cedar Rapids Public Library to provide this free training.

Topics include the following:

- Differences between service animals and companion (emotional support, comfort, therapy) animals;
- Questions business and organizational representatives can and cannot ask regarding such animals;
- Requirements for control of animals and;
- Other areas covered by the ADA in public accommodations.

Registration is open through Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-accommodations-the-ada-rights-responsibilities-of-the-business-owner-tickets-26568614441>

For more information on this training and other programs, please call the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at (319) 286-5036 or visit our website at [www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights).