

## **Revision to Alabama Historical Commission Records Disposition Authority**

At the request of the Alabama Historical Commission, the State Records Commission approved the following revision to the Alabama Historical Commission's RDA:

### **Addition:**

#### **Subfunction: Identifying (Black Heritage Council)**

Black Heritage Council Membership Files

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the year in which the member's term is expired.

MEETING AGENDAS, MINUTES, AND PACKETS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

Recordings of Meetings

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until the official minutes are adopted and signed.

ANNUAL PRESERVATION FORUM FILES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

HISTORIC LANDMARK PROJECT FILES

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

PUBLICATIONS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in Office.

*Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) Recommendation: To ensure useful photographic collections for future staff and researchers, the ADAH recommends agency staff members select only the best photographs from each event, activity, photo opportunity for long-term preservation. Also helpful to future uses is the placement of the following information on the back of each photograph: date, location, names of people featured in photograph, and/or activity documented in photograph. This can be done using a pencil or an archival quality pen.*

## Intern Files

### a. Applications, Resumes, and Evaluations

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until no longer useful.

### b. Time Sheets

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

## **Requirement and Recommendations for Implementing the Records Disposition Authority**

Under the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-13-21, “no state officer or agency head shall cause any state record to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without first obtaining approval of the State Records Commission.” This Records Disposition Authority constitutes authorization by the State Records Commission for the disposition of the records of the Alabama Historical Commission (hereafter referred to as the agency) as stipulated in this document.

One condition of this authorization is that the agency submit an annual Records Disposition Authority (RDA) Implementation Report on agency records management activities, including documentation of records destruction, to the State Records Commission in October of each year. In addition, the agency should make every effort to establish and maintain a quality record-keeping program through the following activities:

- The agency should designate a records liaison, who is responsible for: ensuring the development of quality record keeping systems that meet the business and legal needs of the agency, coordinating the transfer and destruction of records, ensuring that permanent records held on alternative storage media (such as microforms and digital imaging systems) are maintained in compliance with national and state standards, and ensuring the regular implementation of the agency’s approved RDA.
- Permanent records in the agency’s custody should be maintained under proper intellectual control and in an environment that will ensure their physical order and preservation.
- Destruction of temporary records, as authorized in this RDA, should occur agency-wide on a regular basis—for example, after the successful completion of an audit, at the end of an administration, or at the end of a fiscal year. Despite the RDA’s provisions, no record should be destroyed that is necessary to comply with requirements of the state Sunset Act, audit requirements, or any legal notice or subpoena.
- The agency should maintain full documentation of any computerized record-keeping system it employs. It should develop procedures for: (1) backing up all permanent records held in electronic format; (2) storing a back-up copy off-site; and (3) migrating all permanent records when the system is upgraded or replaced. If the agency chooses to maintain permanent records

solely in electronic format, it is committed to funding any system upgrades and migration strategies necessary to ensure the records' permanent preservation and accessibility.

The staff of the State Records Commission or the Examiners of Public Accounts may examine the condition of the permanent records maintained in the custody of the agency and inspect records destruction documentation. Government Records Division archivists are available to instruct the agency staff in RDA implementation and otherwise assist the agency in implementing its records management program.

The State Records Commission adopted this records disposition authority on July 30, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edwin C. Bridges, Chairman, by Tracey Berezansky  
State Records Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Receipt acknowledged:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank White, Executive Director  
Alabama Historical Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date