



Chapter 58 - HUMAN RELATIONS^[1]

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Secs. 58-1—58-30. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION^[2]

- **Sec. 58-31. - Findings.**

The city council finds that prejudice and the practice of discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, sex and sexual orientation menaces peace and public welfare; that to eliminate such prejudice and discrimination an instrumentality of the city should be established to help the citizens of this city ameliorate practices of discrimination to keep peace and good order, and to encourage citizens to promote tolerance and goodwill toward all people.

(Ord. No. 820, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-32. - Creation; composition; term; voting.**

(a)

There is hereby created a human relations commission to be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. The human relations commission shall be composed of nine members, all city residents, one of whom shall be designated as chair to be selected by the mayor to serve until a new chair is elected by a majority of the human relations commission. Term of chair shall be one year. The term of members shall be three years. The first members shall be appointed in groups of three for terms of one, two and three years, and thereafter the terms of three members shall expire each year.

(b)

A quorum for conduct of the lawful business of the human relations commission shall be a majority of the current members.

(c)

Except as otherwise stated in this article, all actions and decisions of the human relations commission shall be by simple majority vote of those members present at a lawful meeting of the human relations commission.

(d)

The human relations commission shall insofar as possible reflect the diversity of the community.

(Ord. No. 820, § 1, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-33. - Regulations; meetings; reports.**

The human relations commission shall have the authority to promulgate its own rules and regulations when not inconsistent with this article, other city ordinances, and other laws of the state and federal government. Provided, however, that such rules of the human relations commission shall be subject to review and repeal by and in the discretion of the city council. The human relations commission shall meet at least once each quarter and file a written report of its activities with the city council annually, on or before December 31.

(Ord. No. 820, § 2, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-34. - Support function.**

- (a) The city manager shall be responsible for providing administrative and clerical assistance to the human relations commission in discharging its duties and responsibilities, and shall appoint one staff person to assist the human relations commission.
 - (b) The city clerk shall act as secretary of the human relations commission and keep commission records.
 - (c) The city council shall annually appropriate funds for the effective operation of the human relations commission. Human relations commission members shall serve without compensation.
 - (d) The city attorney shall act as legal advisor to the human relations commission.
- (Ord. No. 820, § 3, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-35. - General purposes and functions.**

The general purposes and functions of the human relations commission shall be:

- (1) To serve as an advisory body to the city council and the city manager.
- (2) To study problems in the city relating to prejudice and discrimination and to make recommendations to the city council and city manager for the elimination of prejudice and discrimination within the community.
- (3) To invite and enlist the cooperation of all racial, religious, national origin, sexual, sexual orientation and ethnic groups as well as all persons representing various economic, educational, and social groups including groups concerned with age and/or disability in all areas of the city and to act as a coordinating agency among these and other groups in the community in the establishment and maintenance of educational programs in the community designed to bring about better human relations.
- (4) To cooperate with interested citizens and all state, federal and local agencies whenever such cooperation is appropriate in furtherance with the purpose of this article.
- (5) To promote mutual understanding and foster equality and respect among all racial, religious, sexual, national and ethnic groups, among persons of all economic and educational status, and generally throughout the entire city so as to prevent discrimination and discriminatory practices.
- (6) To issue publications, studies, or reports to effectuate the purposes of this article and to promote good will in the community as a whole. Such reports shall not include names of parties or other facts which might clearly identify parties without their consent.
- (7) To conduct public forums, town meetings, educational and other programs to promote the equal rights and opportunities of all persons.
- (8)

To accept grants and donations on behalf of the city from foundations and others for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of this article, subject to the approval of the city council.

(9)

To study problems which may result in patterns of tension, discrimination or prejudice within the city, and offer assistance and attempt conciliation or mediation.

(10)

Any citizen of the city may propose a matter for inquiry and study by the human relations commission concerning matters that result in patterns of tensions, discrimination or prejudice. The human relations commission shall not receive or deal with complaints between individuals, but may refer persons with complaints concerning individuals to appropriate agencies.

(Ord. No. 820, § 4, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-36. - Advisory responsibilities and powers.**

In addition to the general purposes and functions specified above, the human relations commission is charged with the responsibility of advising the city council and the city manager on all matters relating to anti-discrimination. The human relations commission is specifically charged with the responsibility of attempting to resolve problems caused by patterns of action or nonaction causing tensions, discrimination or prejudice by means of conciliation and mediation. The human relations commission shall make recommendations to the city manager and to the city council for amendments, either in substance or procedure, as may be found necessary in connection with city ordinances.

(Ord. No. 820, § 5, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-37. - Cooperation with governmental agencies.**

The human relations commission shall cooperate with any governmental agency and its agents.

(Ord. No. 820, § 6, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-38. - Provisions not mandatory; liability.**

(a)

The services of the human relations commission are provided as a means of securing, without formal court action, compliance with the letter and spirit of the law. The resort to such processes and procedures is not mandatory nor shall it be deemed necessary as a condition precedent to the taking of any court action or any other legal proceeding.

(b)

Nothing in this article shall be deemed to exempt or relieve any person, governmental agency, or institution from any liability, duty, penalty, or punishment provided by any applicable law or ordinance.

(Ord. No. 820, § 7, 5-31-1995)

- **Sec. 58-39. - Other action.**

The human relations commission shall hold any proceeding in abeyance in the event that any person involved in a matter before the human relations commission is a complainant, party or respondent in or to any proceeding involving the same facts in any complaint, suit, grievance or case brought before any other commission, board, association, court, agency, or city department, including any grievance proceeding;

under labor or other contract provisions, until the other proceeding is finally determined including any appeals.

(Ord. No. 820, § 8, 5-31-1995)

- **Secs. 58-40—58-60. - Reserved.**