

Dearborn Heights, Michigan, Code of Ordinances >> PART II - CODE OF ORDINANCES >> Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION >> ARTICLE VI. - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS >> DIVISION 4. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL RELATIONS COMMISSION >>

DIVISION 4. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

[Sec. 2-581. Established; duties; meetings.](#)

[Secs. 2-582—2-590. Reserved.](#)

Sec. 2-581. Established; duties; meetings.

- (a) *Findings.* The city finds as follows:
- (1) Prejudice and discrimination against any individual or group because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, arrest record, or physical or mental disabilities are harmful to democracy, the cornerstone of our American tradition, and threaten the public peace and the public welfare.
 - (2) To endeavor to eliminate such prejudice and discrimination, an instrumentality of government should be established through which the residents of the city may be kept informed of developments in community and cultural relations and from which the elected and appointed officials and the departments of the city may obtain expert advice and assistance in adopting measures to keep peace, good order and harmony among the residents of the city; to bring about and maintain harmony; to avoid inter-group tensions; to promote tolerance and good will; and to ensure equality of treatment and opportunity to all regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, arrest record, or physical or mental disabilities.
- (b) *Establishment; membership; composition; terms; ex officio members; administrative support; removal.*
- (1) There is hereby established a community and cultural relations commission (the "commission") which shall consist of nine (9) members. Seven (7) of the nine (9) members shall be voting members. The remaining two (2) members shall be ex-officio members.
 - (2) The members of the commission, as nearly as possible, shall be representative of the community, including management, labor, social and economic factors, and the various racial, ethnic and religious groups, and personally shall have manifested and demonstrated their interest in improving community and cultural relations.
 - (3) Five (5) of the seven (7) voting members shall be appointed by the mayor with the concurrence of the city council. The remaining two (2) voting members shall be appointed by the city council.
 - (4) Of the seven (7) voting members first appointed, two (2) shall be appointed for one (1) year (by the mayor), two (2) for two (2) years (one (1) by the mayor and one (1) by the city council), and three (3) for three (3) years (two (2) by the mayor and one (1) by the city council). Thereafter, all appointments to the commission shall be for a term of three (3) years.

- (5) A voting member shall continue in office until a successor is appointed and takes office. A voting member may be reappointed for a second full term. After serving a second full term, a voting member must wait one (1) year before becoming eligible for reappointment to another term on the commission.
 - (6) The two (2) ex-officio members shall be appointed annually. One (1) shall be a member of the city council appointed by the city council. The other shall be a city official, other than a city councilmember, appointed by the mayor, with the concurrence of the city council.
 - (7) In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of any voting or ex-officio member, his or her successor shall be appointed in the same manner that the deceased, removed, or resigned member had been appointed and shall serve for the unexpired term of the deceased, removed, or resigned member.
 - (8) The mayor, with the concurrence of the city council, shall designate someone to serve as secretary to the commission and shall provide such administrative support as may be required.
 - (9) A member of the commission may be removed by the city council for good cause. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, three (3) consecutive unexcused absences or five (5) total absences in a twelve-month period from regularly scheduled meetings of the commission.
 - (10) Voting members of the commission shall serve without compensation. Ex-officio members of the commission shall receive no compensation in addition to that which they receive as a member of the city council or as a city official.
- (c) *Purpose.* The purpose of the community and cultural relations commission shall be to increase constructive communication among residents and groups in the city across racial, religious, ethnic and socio-economic lines and between residents, groups in the city, and public officials, thereby promoting harmonious and productive relationships within the city.
- (d) *Duties and responsibilities.* The community and cultural relations commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
- (1) To foster mutual understanding and respect among all residents and groups in the city; to discourage and prevent discriminatory practices among any such group or any of its members; to cooperate with city, state and federal agencies as well as with nongovernmental organizations, including groups and agencies of governmental units adjacent to the city; and to make such investigations and studies in any field of community and cultural relations as are permitted by law and as, in the judgment of the commission, will aid in effectuating its general purpose;
 - (2) To formulate and carry out programs of community education and information, with the object of discouraging and eliminating any tension, prejudice, or discrimination and promoting positive community and cultural relations;
 - (3) To secure the cooperation of various racial, religious, nationality and ethnic groups; formal or informal groupings in the community; veterans' organizations; business and industry organizations and fraternal, benevolent and service groups in educational campaigns devoted to eliminating group prejudice, racial or area tension, intolerance and discrimination, and to promoting positive community and cultural relations;
 - (4) To monitor conditions, practices, attitudes and other factors contributing to or giving rise to misunderstandings, misapprehensions, failures of communication, and incidents of non-cooperation among the residents and public officials;
 - (5) To make special reports and recommendations when deemed warranted by the commission or when requested by the city council or the mayor. The reports should include a review and analysis of the effectiveness of prior action, projects, or programs,

including, where appropriate, recommendations with regard thereto;

- (6) To eliminate or adjust a discriminatory practice by conciliation and persuasion, or refer the matter to neighborhood mediation services or to the appropriate local, state or federal agencies or law enforcement authorities.
- (e) *Organization, meetings, rules and procedures.*
- (1) The commission shall annually elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson and such other officers as it deems necessary from among its voting members.
 - (2) The commission shall establish a regular time and place of meeting and shall hold one regular meeting at least quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, or by a majority of the voting members of the commission upon written notice received by each member at least five (5) days prior to such meeting. Meeting notices shall be posted pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act.
 - (3) The commission shall make and alter rules and procedures governing its organization that are not inconsistent with this chapter, or any other city ordinance. Such rules and procedures shall be subject to city council approval. No amendment to such rules and procedures shall be effective unless approved by the city council.
 - (4) The commission shall keep a record of its proceedings and transactions and shall submit an annual report to the mayor.
 - (5) *Quorum.* Four (4) voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the concurring vote of at least four (4) voting members shall be necessary for the commission to take action.

(Ord. No. H-05-03, § 1, 10-11-05)

Secs. 2-582—2-590. Reserved.