

ARTICLE II. HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Sec. 2-2. Created; composition.

There is hereby created a commission on human relations of the town. The commission shall consist of nine (9) members and four (4) alternates who shall be appointed by the council and who shall serve without compensation. Of the nine (9) members first appointed, three (3) shall be appointed for one (1) year; three (3) for two (2) years; and three (3) for three (3) years. Thereafter, all appointments to the commission shall be for a term of three (3) years. Each alternate shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. In the event of the death or resignation of any member of the commission, a successor shall be appointed by the council to serve the unexpired portion of the term for which such member had been appointed. As far as possible, the commission shall represent a cross section of the town, and all members must be residents of the town. A member of the council, a member of the board of education, the town manager, and the superintendent of schools shall be members ex-officio of the commission without power of vote. The commission shall elect its own chairperson from among its members and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

(Code 1961, § 13.19.01; Ord. No. 67-1, 2-20-67; Ord. No. 74-1, 2-25-74; Ord. No. 75-5, 10-6-75)

Sec. 2-3. Meetings.

The commission shall hold meetings at such regular intervals as it may designate. Any four (4) members of the commission may, in writing, request that the chairperson call a special meeting for a specific purpose or purposes, and the chairperson shall call such meeting in accordance with such request. A quorum shall consist of five (5) voting members and the approval of the majority of those members present and voting shall be required for approval of any action taken.

(Code 1961, § 13.19.02; Ord. No. 67-1, 2-20-67; Ord. No. 74-1, 2-25-74; Ord. No. 75-5, 10-6-75)

Sec. 2-4. Purposes.

The commission shall be dedicated to the promotion of better understanding and respect among racial, religious and ethnic groups and individuals in the town.

It shall pursue a community-wide program of education to further inter-group understanding and to discourage and eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination.

It shall concern itself with equal opportunities in housing and employment for all said groups and individuals and other areas where tensions between persons or groups exists or might exist.

(Code 1961, § 13.19.03; Ord. No. 67-1, 2-20-67)

Sec. 2-5. Responsibilities.

The commission shall be charged with the following duties:

- (1) To cooperate with federal and state, and other town agencies in developing an educational program for presentation to the public in public and private schools, public libraries and such other suitable places of assembly as techniques for achieving harmonious inter-group and personal relations within the town.
- (2) To study the field of human relations generally and to determine principles and practices which might be applied within the town.
- (3) To seek voluntary compliance with state and federal laws relating to civil rights.
- (4) To enlist the cooperation of all groups in programs and campaigns devoted to eliminating the causes of the problems coming within the scope of the commission's functions.
- (5) To study human relations problems referred to it by the council or town manager.
- (6) To receive and study complaints of discrimination on the basis of age or sex or racial, religious or ethnic identification and to refer such complaint to the proper agency having jurisdiction in the particular matter.
- (7) To recommend to the council such ordinances or programs as it may deem necessary to deal with existing or potential human relations problems.
- (8) To submit to the council annually, or more frequently as the council may prescribe or the commission may deem advisable, reports concerning the activities of the commission.

(Code 1961, § 13.19.04; Ord. No. 67-1, 2-20-67; Ord. No. 74-1, 2-25-74; Ord. No. 75-5, 10-6-75)