

ORDINANCE #2271-17
AN ORDINANCE OF THE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF CITY OF WOODBURY ESTABLISHING A
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City of Woodbury is dedicated to eliminating discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital or political status, affectional or sexual orientation, domestic partnership status, atypical heredity, cellular or blood trait, genetic information, disability (including AIDS or HIV infection), liability for service in the United States armed forces, and/or any other characteristic protected by law; and

WHREAS, the City of Woodbury has implemented ordinances to preclude discrimination in its employment and contracting practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Woodbury wishes to establish a Human Rights Commission to further its existing policies, the elimination of discrimination, and education of the public on issues of diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the City of Woodbury have determined that creation of a Human Rights Commission will further the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the City of Woodbury.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Woodbury that,

1. Chapter 3 Article 8 of the Code of the City of Woodbury is hereby amended to establish a Human Rights Commission for the City of Woodbury, the composition, organization, powers, duties and functions of which are as provided for in Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Woodbury.

2. The Code of the City of Woodbury is hereby amended to provide for a Chapter 30 "Human Rights Commission and Citywide Anti-Discrimination Policy" and Article I shall henceforth read as follows:

ARTICLE I – Human Rights Commission

§30-1. Organization.

A. There is hereby organized in the City of Woodbury a Human Rights Commission to consist of seven members, being the Mayor and six members who shall receive their appointment from and be subject to removal by the Mayor with the advice and consent of City Council.

B. At the next regular meeting of the City Council after this Chapter shall take effect, there shall be appointed six persons, residents of the City, to be members of the Human Rights Commission. Up to three members of such commission may be either the Mayor or members of City Council, two of whom shall be appointed for one year; two for two years, and two for three years, annually and thereafter there shall be appointed two members for the term of three years, such term to commence on the date of the annual reorganization meeting of Council.

C. In case of the death, resignation, disqualification or removal of, or the neglect or refusal to perform the duties incumbent upon them by, any or all of the members of the Human Rights Commission, the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council may remove such person and fill such place or places by new appointments for the unexpired term or terms.

§30-2. Meetings – Quorums.

The regular meetings of the Human Rights Commission shall be held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in City Hall or at such place and times as determined by a vote of the majority of the Commission but in no event less than four times annually. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by any three members requesting the secretary, in writing, to schedule a meeting. A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

§30-3. Officers.

A. Generally. The officers of the Human Rights Commission shall consist of a President and Secretary and such other officers at the discretion of the Commission, to be elected annually at the January meeting of the Commission and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are chosen. In the event the Commission is unable to elect a President and Secretary by a majority vote of the quorum in attendance, at such meeting, the Mayor shall designate a President and Secretary of the Commission.

B. President. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Commission and appoint all committees.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Board, preserve its books and papers, conduct its correspondence and perform all duties as directed by the Commission.

D. All members of the Human Rights Commission shall serve without compensation.

E. The Human Rights Commission may utilize the services of the City Solicitor with the consent of the City Administrator.

§30-4. Purpose of the Commission.

The purpose of the Commission is to further the goals of the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital or political status, affectional or sexual orientation, domestic partnership status, atypical heredity, cellular or blood trait, genetic information, disability (including AIDS or HIV infection), liability for service in the United States armed forces, and/or any other characteristic protected by law and further the education of the public on issues of diversity and inclusion.

§30-5. Duties and Responsibilities of Commission.

A. The Commission shall develop public education programs, provide training for Commission members and the public and/or City business who may request same, hold community discussions, present panels, take public comment, advise City leaders and develop policies and strategies, collect and analyze data and disseminate same to Mayor and Council and the public, create a website, and initiate public relation campaigns, review City ordinances, policies and procedures and make recommendations related thereto, act as an oversight entity for the interdepartmental collaboration on issues impacting diversity and non-discrimination, in furtherance of the Commissions purpose as set forth in §30-4.

B. The Commission may with a consent of all parties shall have the authority to conciliate or mediate disputes between City employees, the City and employees, residents or businesses of the City of Woodbury and their employees of any alleged violations of non-discrimination laws of the State of New Jersey or ordinances or policies of the City of Woodbury.

C. The Commission may receive complaints alleging violations of the State's Non-Discrimination Laws and/or the City Ordinances or policies against discrimination and in the event they are unable to conciliate or mediate successfully such complaints, may refer such complaints to the City Administrator, City Council, the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for further action as the Commission deems appropriate.

D. The Commission shall report annually on or before the final December Council meeting of each year to the Mayor and Council its activities of the preceding year.

E. The Commission may expend such funds as may be appropriated by Mayor and Council or approved in advance by the City Administrator.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all other provisions of said Ordinance not specifically amended herein shall remain in full force and effect and any ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

THE FOREGOING was introduced by the City Council of the City of Woodbury at a regular meeting held on October 10, 2017. This Ordinance will be considered for adoption at final reading and public hearing to be held on October 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. or at such time as may be determined and announced, in City Hall, Council Chambers, 33 Delaware Street, Woodbury, New Jersey, at which time and place all persons interested will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance. During the time prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting, copies of said Ordinance will be made available at the City Clerk's Office to the members of the general public who may request same.

CITY OF WOODBURY



By: **TRACEY PARKER,**
President of Council

ATTEST:



DANEEN FUSS, Clerk

Approved:



JESSICA FLOYD, Mayor