

CITY COUNCIL

The City of Orange Township, New Jersey

DATE _____

NUMBER 29-2023

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP, CHAPTER 4 ARTICLE XIV ENTITLED, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES TO ESTABLISH 4-63.3 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

(Sponsored by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten & South Ward Councilmember Jamie Summers-Johnson)

WHEREAS, after many conversations and meetings regarding human relations in the City of Orange Township it is imperative that a Human Rights Commissions be created; and

WHEREAS, it was during these conversations that it was discussed and agreed upon that a commission be created for all groups; and

WHEREAS, The City of Orange Township recognizes and respects the strength of its rich diversity; and

WHEREAS, no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the City of Orange Township on the grounds of a person's national origin, race, color, religion, disability, sex, and familial status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orange Township strives to promote and foster goodwill, and through cooperation and conciliation among all groups and segments of the population, to eliminate and prevent within its boundaries discrimination, segregation or separation because of national origin, race, color, religion, disability, sex, and familial status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED THAT Chapter 4, Article XIV, 4-63.3 BECOME HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that 4-63.4 Appointment of employees to boards, 4-63.5 become Employment by City of board members, 4-63.6 Personal election as to employment or membership 4-63.7 Definitions

4-63.8 No applicability

SECTION I.

Creation

There is hereby created the City of Orange Township Human Relations Commission, which shall be a part of the Mayor's Office.

Membership

The Commission shall be comprised of 11 members, each of whom shall be a resident of the City of Orange Township. The Mayor shall appoint three members and each member of the Municipal Council shall appoint one member. All members shall be known as Commissioners and the term

of each Commissioner shall expire with the term of the elected official who appointed that Commissioner. Any subsequent appointments shall also expire with the term of the elected official who appointed that Commissioner. All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

Adoption of Bylaws.

The Commission shall adopt bylaws to govern its operation, including specific goals and plans to achieve them, which shall be approved in advance by resolution of the Municipal Council.

Committees.

The Commission may, by a majority vote of its Commissioners, create such subcommittee or subcommittees of its membership as they deem necessary and appropriate provided, however, that no subcommittee shall act for the Commission. The Commissioners may recruit and enlist volunteers who are residents of the City of Orange Township to assist them, but such volunteers shall have no voting rights and shall not speak for the Commission.

Chairperson.

There shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission who shall be designated by the Mayor for a term of one year provided, however, that the Mayor may reappoint any Commissioner as Chairperson from year to year. The Chairperson shall be selected by the Mayor from the 11 members of the Commission. All vacancies in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Mayor.

Duties and Responsibilities.

The Commission shall develop and implement programs which encourage a positive and constructive dialogue within the City of Orange Township on diversity and diversity-related issues. Among other events and activities, the Commission shall plan and coordinate the presentation of an annual Municipal-wide celebration in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The Commission shall encourage the inclusion of all residents of the Township in the leadership of civic and community issues and groups. The Commission shall be involved in community-building tasks and strategies to enhance and sustain respect among all of the diverse residents of the Township. The Commission shall develop formal and informal educational programs to eradicate all types of discrimination, to promote the celebration and preservation of our residents' unique cultural customs, and to promote the regular, civil and productive communication between the diverse groups of residents of the Township.

Annual Budget.

The Commission shall annually develop a tentative budget for the following year to be submitted to the Mayor for initial approval and subject to the Municipal Council's appropriation approval. Any funds raised through grant applications, fundraisers or solicitations shall be subject to all applicable laws and the regulations and procedures applicable through the NJ Division of Local Finance.

Annual Report.

The Commission shall submit an annual report in writing to the Mayor and Township Council setting forth its activities and accomplishments for the preceding year and its plans for the following year, including any new goals and plans to achieve them. The annual report shall be

submitted by no later than January 15th for the preceding year. Each semi-annual report shall describe activities undertaken by the Committee and present recommendations for future activities deemed necessary for the Commission to discharge its duties and responsibilities.

SECTION 2. Severability of Ordinance Provisions

Each section of this is an independent section, and the holding of any section or part thereof to be unconstitutional, void or ineffective for any cause shall not be deemed to affect the validity or constitutionality of any other sections or parts thereof.

SECTION 3. Conflict of Other Ordinance Provisions

That all ordinances and parts of ordinances and conflicts including but not limited to the employee handbook that is inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 4. Effective Date of Ordinance Provisions

That this ordinance shall take effect upon final passage upon expiration of twenty (20) days following publication unless otherwise provided.

PURPOSE

The City of Orange Township recognizes and respects the strength of its rich diversity, which the Township seeks to promote through the Human Relations Commission (the "Commission"). The purpose of the Commission is to foster communication, understanding and cooperation among all groups and residents of the Township, to promote the celebration and preservation of our residents' unique cultural customs, and to promote the regular, civil and productive communication between the diverse groups of residents of the Township.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Adopted:

Joyce Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President