
Chapter 73, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Peekskill 3-9-1964 by L.L. No. 1-1964 (Ch. 44 of the 1984 Code). Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 73-1. Establishment.

A Commission on Human Relations is hereby established by the City of Peekskill in accordance with Article 12-D of the General Municipal Law, as enacted by Chapter 376 of the Laws of 1963.

§ 73-2. Composition.

The Commission shall consist of 11 members to be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Common Council. The Mayor shall designate one of such members to be Chairman, who shall serve as Chairman for three years.

§ 73-3. Terms of office; vacancies.

Of the members first appointed, four shall be appointed for terms of office of one year each, four for terms of office of two years each and three for terms of office of three years each. Thereafter, all appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for terms of office of three years each. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of terms of office shall be filled for the unexpired terms of the offices so filled.

§ 73-4. Salaries.

Unless salaries are provided for the members of the Commission or for the Chairman, they shall serve without salary but may be reimbursed for their actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

§ 73-5. Community representation. [Amended 12-26-2000]

In making appointments to the Commission, the Mayor shall take into consideration the various religious, racial, nationality, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and political groups in the community.

§ 73-6. Officers and employees; budget.

- A. The Commission on Human Relations hereby created shall have the power and authority, subject to applicable civil service requirements, to employ an Executive Director, a Secretary and such attorneys, experts and other employees as may be necessary, within the amount made available by the Common Council of the City of Peekskill.
- B. The Common Council shall establish a budget for this Commission in such amount as in its discretion seems adequate.

§ 73-7. Duties.

It shall be the duty of the Commission as provided by the General Municipal Law to:

- A. Foster mutual respect and understanding among all racial, religious, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and nationality groups in the community. [Amended 12-26-2000]
- B. Make such studies in any field of human relations in the community as, in its judgment, will aid in effectuating its general purposes.
- C. Inquire into incidents of tension and conflict among or between various racial, religious, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and nationality groups, and take such action as may be designed to alleviate such tension and conflict. [Amended 12-26-2000]
- D. Conduct and recommend such educational programs as, in its judgment, will increase goodwill among inhabitants of the community and open new opportunities into all phases of community life for all inhabitants.

§ 73-8. Obligations.

The Commission shall discharge the following obligations as provided by Article 12-D of the General Municipal Law:

- A. Receive complaints of alleged discrimination because of race, creed, color, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or national origin, seek the active assistance of the State Commission for Human Rights, the Westchester County Human Rights Commission in the solution of complaints which fall within the jurisdiction of the State Commission or County Commission and prepare its own plans in the case of other complaints, with a view to reducing and eliminating such alleged discrimination through the process of conference, conciliation and persuasion. [Amended 12-26-2000]
- B. Hold conferences and other public meetings in the interest of and the constructive resolution of racial, religious, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and nationality group tensions

and the prejudice and discrimination occasioned thereby. [Amended 12-26-2000]

- C. Issue such publications and reports of investigation as, in its judgment, will tend to effectuate the purposes of Article 12-D of the General Municipal Law.
- D. Enlist the cooperation and participation of the various racial, religious, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and nationality groups, community organizations, industrial and labor organizations, media of mass communication, fraternal and benevolent associations and other groups in an educational campaign devoted to fostering among the diverse groups of the community mutual esteem, justice and equity. [Amended 12-26-2000]
- E. Encourage and stimulate agencies under the jurisdiction of the Common Council of the City of Peekskill to take such action as will fulfill the purposes of Article 12-D.
- F. Submit an annual report to the Common Council.

§ 73-9. Effect of statutory amendments.

In the event the provisions of General Municipal Law, Article 12-D, are amended, such amendments shall be effective with respect to the Commission on Human Relations created hereby.
