

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PITT COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Be it ordained by the County of Pitt, North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1. In Pitt County we seek to strive for a community in which the dignity and worth of each individual is respected on his/her own merits, a community in which genuine equality of opportunity for all persons is a recognizable fact. A Commission is hereby created to identify concerns in the area of human relations, make recommendations regarding these issues and engage in activities which shall effectively; (a) promote equality in such areas as economic, educational, governmental and cultural life of the community for all citizens without regard to race, creed, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability, and work to eliminate discrimination on any of these bases; (b) encourage fair treatment and mutual understanding and respect among all citizens; (c) discover and seek to counter practices and customs which create animosity and unrest; and (d) make recommendations to the appointing authority for action it deems necessary for harmonious relationships among the citizens.

Section 2. There is hereby created a Human Relations Commission for the County of Pitt (HRC). It shall consist of twenty-one (21) members appointed by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners serving without compensation:

Ten (10) representatives, one from each of Pitt County's municipalities,
One (1) representative of law enforcement
One (1) representative of the Department of Social Services
One (1) representative from the Latinx community
One (1) representative from the African American community
One (1) representative from the Asian American Community
One (1) representative from the LGBTQ community
One (1) representative from Public Health
One (1) representative from the faith community
One (1) representative from Pitt County Board of Commissioners
Two (2) members at-large

A majority of seats filled shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Of the twenty-one (21) members first appointed, 7 shall be appointed for one year, 7 for two years, and 7 for three years. Thereafter, all appointments to the HRC shall be for a term of three years. Appointments are subject to the Pitt County Board Appointment Policy. In the event of the death, resignation or removal of any member, his/her successor shall be appointed by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners to serve for the unexpired period of the term for which such member had been appointed, provided however, that all members shall continue in office until their successors shall have been appointed. It is encouraged that members appointed by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners be actively engaged with an organization advancing inclusivity in the community.

Section 3. The HRC at its organizational meeting and each annual meeting thereafter shall elect from its membership: a Chair, Vice Chair; and Secretary for a term of one year. These officers shall have and perform such duties as are commonly associated with their respective titles and shall be and

constitute the executive committee of the HRC which shall exercise such powers of the HRC between its regular meetings as may be authorized by the HRC. The HRC shall be further authorized to appoint and determine the membership of such number of standing and temporary committees as it may find expedient for the performance of its duties.

Section 4. The Human Relations Commission shall meet at least once each month at such time and place as shall be determined by the HRC in its bylaws. Special called meetings may be called by the Chair and noticed in accordance with law. An emergency meeting may be called by the Chair because of generally unexpected circumstances that require immediate consideration by the Human Relations Commission.

Section 5. The functions, powers, and duties of the HRC shall be as follows:

- a. Study and recommend strategies for the prevention of potential human relations problems and crises and the promotion of good relations.
- b. Identify, study and document areas of human need (housing, employment, education, transportation, etc.) in the County and recommend strategies for meeting those needs.
- c. Endeavor to make the Human Relations Commission itself a model of good human relations at work.
- d. Prepare and submit at least annually a report to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.
- e. Cooperate with State, Federal and local governmental agencies.
- f. Communicate regularly the work, observations and recommendations of the Human Relations Commission to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.
- g. Advise the Pitt County Board of Commissioners of recommended actions to aid and carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.
- h. Promote and provide training/workshops for community advancement.
- i. Advocate for equal employment opportunity.
- j. Promote and provide education on equal housing opportunity.
- k. Perform duties assigned by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.
- l. Provide opportunities for meaningful discussion on human relations throughout the community.
- m. Provide information and referrals related to Human Relations issues.

Section 6. The services of all other county departments and agencies shall be made available to the HRC for the carrying out of the functions herein stated.

Section 7. If any section of this Ordinance be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, then such section shall be considered separately from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance; said section to be completely severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance and the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. That all Ordinances, or the parts of Ordinances, in conflict with this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 9. That this Ordinance shall be effective upon adoption by the County of Pitt from and after its passage.

Adopted this the 11th day of January, 2021.

Ann Floyd Huggins
Ann Floyd Huggins, Chairwoman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Kimberly W. Hines
Kimberly W. Hines
Clerk to the Board

