

ORDINANCE**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 51 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, ENTITLED "HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION"**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, that Chapter 2, Section 51 of the Revised General Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

I. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to enact reforms to the Township's Human Relations Commission based upon the experience of the Commission in its first twenty (20) years of existence. The reforms are the following: (1) a reduction in the size of the Commission from twenty-three (23) Commissioners to thirteen (13) Commissioners; and (2) enhanced organization and accountability through the submission of at least annual reports and the adoption of by-laws, including specific goals and plans to achieve them.

II. CHAPTER 2, SECTION 51 SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS AMENDED AND SUPERSEDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**2-51.1 Purpose.**

The 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.

2-51.2 Creation.

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

2-51.3 Membership.

The Commission shall be comprised of thirteen (13) members, each of whom shall be a resident of the Township. The Mayor shall appoint three (3) members and each member of the Township Council shall appoint two (2) members. 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.

2-51.4 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 Township Council.

2-51.5 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 Township to assist them, but such volunteers shall have no voting rights and shall not speak for the Commission.

2-51.6 Chairperson.

There shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission who shall be designated by the Mayor for a term of one (1) 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 thirteen (13) members of the Commission. All vacancies in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Mayor.

2.51-7 Duties and Responsibilities.

The Commission shall develop and implement programs which encourage a positive and constructive dialogue within the Township on diversity and diversity-related issues. Among other events and activities, the Commission shall plan and coordinate the presentation of an annual Township-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.

2.51-8 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 Township 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.

2.51-9 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.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the remainder of Chapter 2 shall remain unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with law.

Robert D. Parisi, Mayor

**Joe Krakoviak
Council President**

**Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk**

Introduction: January 17, 2017

Adopted: February 7, 2017

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

This Ordinance is intended to enact reforms to the Township's Human Relations Commission based upon the experience of the Commission in its first twenty (20) years of existence. The work of the Commission, which has successfully established itself as an important strategic partner to the Township and an invaluable resource to Township residents, has at times been hampered by its significant size and relatively informal organizational structure. While the Commission was conceived at a time of shifting demographics within the Township, which necessitated particular focus upon issues of diversity, the Township is now one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the region. This transition makes it both possible and important for the Commission to expand its role in the Township and its availability as a resource to all Township residents.

To ensure that the Commission is able to continue in the broadest possible fulfillment of its core mission – that is, the promotion of the Township's diversity, and facilitation of communication and cooperation among its residents – a certain degree of reformation is necessary. The reforms are the following: (1) a reduction in the size of the Commission from twenty-three (23) Commissioners to thirteen (13) Commissioners; (2) enhanced organization and accountability through the submission of an annual report and the adoption of by-laws, to include goals and plans to achieve them.