

RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Traverse City Human Relations Commission was established by resolution of the Traverse City City Commission on August 18, 1969, and by resolution of the Traverse City City Commission on January 17, 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse City City Commission reestablished the Human Rights Commission on June 7, 1993, and amended said resolution on December 7, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse City City Commission reestablished the Human Rights Commission on June 6, 2005, and amended said resolution on July 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Traverse City City Commission has been reexamining the purpose, role and implementation of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Traverse City to restate the purposes, role and implementation of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a resolution reestablishing the Traverse City Human Rights Commission be adopted as follows:

1. Public Policy; Establishment. It is the public policy of the City of Traverse City that all persons subject to its jurisdiction shall enjoy equal freedom to peaceably pursue their just aspirations, and that practices or conditions based on or resulting from consideration of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, familial status, disability or sexual orientation, which result in hindrances or restrictions upon the enjoyment or exercise of that freedom are harmful to the common good and contrary to the public policy of the City of Traverse City. There is hereby established a Human Rights Commission to oversee the fulfillment of this public policy.

2. Commission. The Human Rights Commission shall be composed of ten members, nine members to be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Commission and the tenth member as ex officio described below. All appointments shall be for three-year terms. Each vacancy among the appointed members shall be filled in the manner provided for making original appointments and such appointments shall be for the balance of the term vacated. At least seven of the nine members shall be City residents. The City Manager or his/her designee shall serve on said Commission as Ex Officio with no voting authority, as a liaison between the Human Rights Commission and the City Commission. Any member may be removed at any time by the vote of the City Commission.

3. Duties and Functions. The Human Rights Commission shall:

(a) Foster mutual understanding and respect among all groups in the City. It shall discourage discriminatory practices among any such groups or any members thereof. It shall cooperate with City, State and Federal Agencies, as well as with non-governmental organizations. It shall examine and make such studies in any field of human rights as will aid in effectuating its general purpose.

(b) Advise and recommend methods for furnishing equal service to all residents of the City. It shall develop pamphlets prescribing methods for effectuating the general purposes of the Human Rights Commission. It shall give counsel and advice on how to protect the rights of all persons.

(c) Formulate and carry out programs of community education and information, with the object of discouraging and eliminating any such tensions, prejudice and discrimination.

(d) Further issue such publications and reports research as will tend to minimize or eliminate prejudice, intolerance, race or area tensions and discrimination, and which will promote or tend to promote good will.

(e) Secure the cooperation of various racial, religious, nationality and ethnic groups, formal or informal groupings in the community, veterans organizations, and fraternal, benevolent and service groups, in educational campaigns devoted to the need for eliminating group prejudice, racial or area tensions, intolerance and discrimination.

(f) Cooperate with other governmental or private agencies in developing courses of instruction for presentation in schools, in public libraries or any other suitable place.

(g) Take an active role in working with other forums to resolve human rights issues that might arise in the community.

(h) Develop and implement programs for the enlightenment of everyone who chooses to participate, with subject matter emphasis on issues and concerns which are of interest to Traverse City residents, businesses, workers and groups that have a substantial presence within Traverse City or impact on the City or its residents.

(i) Receive complaints regarding possible occurrences of acts of prejudice or discrimination within Traverse City for the purpose of referring them to the appropriate agency and to assist the Human Rights Commission in focusing its educational efforts. It may also carry on studies to obtain factual data to ascertain the status and treatment of racial, religious, ethnic and other groups or persons in the City and the best means of progressively improving human rights in the City.

4. Meetings; Rules; Officers; Committees; Facilities and Staff.

The Human Rights Commission shall adopt, by majority vote, such rules as it deems expedient for the conduct of its business, which shall be submitted to the City Commission for its approval before the rules become effective. It shall elect a Secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary. The Chairperson shall appoint such committees as its rules of the Board may provide and such other committees as may from time to time be found necessary. Monthly meetings will be scheduled.

5. Meeting Place and Secretarial Services. The staff of the City Manager's office shall coordinate activities, monitor and assist in the affairs of the Human Rights Commission and budget expenditures according to City procedures.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Traverse City City Commission at its regular meeting held on September 4, 2012, in the Commission Chambers, Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan.



Katie Lowran, Deputy City Clerk