

ORDINANCE NO. 885.

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City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred

AN ORDINANCE

In amendment to an ordinance formerly entitled: "The General Ordinances of the City of Cambridge" as revised in 1972 and now designated as "The Code of the City of Cambridge."

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge as follows:

Chapter Two, entitled: "Administration" is hereby amended by adding a new ordinance at the end thereof entitled: "ARTICLE XXVI. CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN", which will read as follows:—

ARTICLE XXVI. CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

Section 2-222. Establishment.

There shall be a Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women.

Section 2-223. Function and Purpose.

It shall be the function of the Commission to:

(a) Act as a centralizing force in the City of Cambridge and the community which will deal with all women's issues providing information, referral, guidance, coordination, offering and providing technical assistance to other public agencies and private persons, organizations and institutions engaged in activities and programs intended to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against women because of their status as women or as a minority woman.

(b) Take such action as the Commission considers appropriate to insure the equal status of women of every race, creed, color, national origin, age and sexual preference.

Section 2-224. Powers and Duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall include the following:—

(a) To insure the equal status of women in educational, economic, political, health, legal and social spheres.

(b) To design and implement programs that promote equality for all women in the City.

(c) To develop recommendations and recommend policy to all departments, divisions and agencies of the City, including the City Manager and the City Council.

(d) To coordinate activities of all departments and divisions of City government on issues affecting women.

(e) To initiate and coordinate and monitor the enactment of legislation which promotes equal status of women on the City, State, and Federal levels, and to assure that appropriate regulations are adopted and enforced pursuant to such legislation.

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(f) To investigate, within the limitations of available resources, incidents of discrimination against women.

(g) To appear and speak for and act on behalf of individual women and groups of women confronted with incidents of discrimination, within the limitations of available resources.

(h) To obtain from City departments, divisions, and agencies, information necessary to carry out the functions, purposes, programs, and activities of the Commission.

(i) To initiate public exhibits and media events in City Hall, City libraries, and other city-owned property as well as in other locations within and without the City.

(j) To raise funds for the use of the Commission and to accept money, gifts and services for its exclusive use and expend or use the same, and subject to appropriation or to receipt of such money, gifts, and services, employ clerical and technical assistants or consultants; and to be consulted by and make recommendations to the City Manager with regard to the employment of the Executive Director.

(k) To be a member of the National Association of Commissions on Women.

(l) To recruit and recommend prospective Commissioners for subsequent appointment by the City Manager.

(m) To appoint task forces to assist the Commission in its operations.

(n) Such other powers and duties as may be agreed on by the City Manager and the Commission.

Section 2-225. Membership, Appointment, Term, Removal.

(a) The Commission shall consist of twenty members, all of whom shall be appointed initially by the City Manager to serve for the following terms:

- (1) six members shall serve for a one year term;
- (2) seven members shall serve for a two year term;
- (3) seven members shall serve for a three year term.

After the initial terms all Commissioners shall be appointed for a term of three years.

(b) If any Commissioner misses three unexcused meetings of the Commission during a calendar year, that position of said Commissioner shall be automatically vacated upon certification to the City Manager by the Commission.

(c) After the initial appointments, subsequent members of the Commission shall be appointed by the City Manager from recommendations provided by the Commission. The Commission shall consult with recognized groups working for the equal status of women to obtain names of qualified candidates. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled not later than thirty days after the vacancy occurs; and if a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of the member's term, an appointment shall be made for the remainder of the term.

(d) That the Commission at all times be representative of all socio-economic and racial segments of the City as well as different neighborhoods and also have members who are resource people as well as women with needs.

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Section 2-226. Election of Chairperson; By-laws.

The members of the Commission shall elect a Chairperson from among its members, and shall adopt by-laws for the Commission.

Section 2-227. Qualifications of Commissioners.

(a) All prospective Commissioners shall have belief in and support of the equal status of women in society and implementation of the aims of the Equal Rights Amendment.

(b) Commissioners must be residents of the City of Cambridge at the time of appointment.

Section 2-228. Appointment and Term of Executive Director.

(a) There shall be an Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women whose selection and length of employment shall be determined by the City Manager with the advice of the Commission.

(b) The prospective Executive Director of the Commission shall have demonstrated administrative expertise, a background of direct participation in women's advancement, and the ability to work cooperatively with women of various socio-economic backgrounds and of every race, color, national origin, age, and sexual preference.

(c) The Executive Director shall have adequate staff assistance.

In City Council October 3, 1977.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 6; Nays 1; Absent 2.

ATTEST:— Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

