

**Chapter 11**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**

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**Division I. Generally**

**Section 16. Human Rights Commission Established**

A Human Rights Commission for the City of Chaska is hereby established.

**Section 17. Composition; Appointment of Members; Residence Restrictions.**

- a. The Commission created by this article shall consist of nine (9) members and a maximum of two (2) alternates.
- b. The City Council shall appoint to the Commission qualified residents of the City who are willing to serve as members of the Commission and as an alternate.
- c. In the absence of a regular member, the alternate shall assume the seat of the absent regular member. When the alternate assumes a regular member's seat, said alternate shall have all the powers, including but not limited to voting powers, of said regular member. In the event all of the regular members are present and the alternate is present, the alternate may join in the discussion but shall have no vote.

(Ord. No. 719, Chap. 11, Div. I, Sec. 17, dated 01-07-02)

**Section 18. Terms**

The members of the Human Rights Commission shall be appointed for three (3) year terms, eligible for three (3) three-year terms (maximum of nine (9) years). Said terms shall be staggered. Commissioners shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed and qualified.

## **Section 19. Vacancies.**

All vacancies during the term of any member of the Human Rights Commission shall be filled by the alternate member and said alternate member's vacancy shall then be filled by the City Council. Any unexpired term filled by an alternate shall be considered said member's first term with an eligibility of two (2) additional, consecutive three (3) year terms. Upon said alternate assuming full membership as provided for herein, the City Council shall then appoint an alternate as provided in Section 17 above.

(Ord. No. 719, Chap. 11, Div. I, Sec. 19, dated 01-07-02)

## **Section 20. Members to Serve Without Compensation.**

The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed reasonable expenses as authorized by the City Administrator.

## **Section 21. Vacation of Office; Removal from Office.**

(a) *Vacation of Office.* Except as hereinafter provided, any member missing three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled monthly meetings, or any four (4) regularly scheduled monthly meetings in any one calendar year, shall have automatically vacated said office, and the City Council shall fill said vacancies as soon thereafter as practicable pursuant to the Section 19 hereof.

(b) *Leave of Absence.* The vacation of office provision provided in (a) above shall not apply to a member who, because of serious illness, accident, or family emergency is prevented from attending meetings, and who has applied for and obtained a leave of absence granted by the City Council, which leave of absence shall not exceed six (6) months.

(c) *Removal.* Members of the Human Rights Commission may be removed for a cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the City Council.

## **Section 22. Officers Designated; Terms, Duties.**

At its first meeting in January of each year the City Council shall appoint from the membership of the Human Rights Commission a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. The officers shall take office immediately upon their appointment and shall hold office for a term of one (1) year and until their successors are appointed and assume office. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees and perform such other duties as may be ordered by the Commission. The Vice-Chairman shall act in the capacity of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson. In the event the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairperson shall succeed to this office for the unexpired term and the City Council shall appoint a successor to the office of the Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired term.

## **Section 23. Meetings.**

The Human Rights Commission shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting each month.

**Sections 24 through 30. Reserved.**

**Section 31. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Commission is to secure for all citizens, through education and prevention, equal opportunities for employment, housing, public information, public services, education, fair treatment, and full participation in affairs of the community. The Commission's mission is to proactively partner with government, businesses, educators, and religious organizations to promote a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all.

**Section 32. Commission Duties.**

It shall be the duty of the Human Rights Commission to:

- (a) Provide proactive leadership for short and long-range programs aimed at improving and maintaining positive human relations.
- (b) Formulate a human relations program for the City to give increased effectiveness and direction for the work of all individuals in the agencies addressing themselves to planning, policy making, and educational programming in the area of civil and human rights.
- (c) Be a conduit and a non-threatening place where individuals can go for advice concerning problems and referral for human rights issues.
- (d) Serve as a catalyst for better understanding and appreciation of our cultural differences, histories, and individual contributions to society and the City of Chaska.
- (e) Gather and disseminate to our partners and the citizens of Chaska the latest information on human rights issues and opportunities.
- (f) Continue development of a multicultural community, which will not tolerate acts of harassment and intolerance.
- (g) Recommend, communicate to the City Council, and encourage Community standards that respect diversity.
- (h) Promote acceptance and respect for individuals in an atmosphere of caring for others.
- (i) Advise the Mayor and City Council of human relations and civil rights programs and problems.
- (j) Render a full report to the City Council covering its operations for the preceding 12 months at the close of each calendar year.

(k) Make a recommendation to the City Administrator for an estimate of funds required for its work for the ensuing fiscal year on a timely basis.

(l) Render such other regular or special reports, or advisory recommendations as deemed necessary by the City Council.

**Effective Date.**

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Chaska, Minnesota on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000.