

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, by adding thereto a new Article XVII; which Chapter 2 relates to ADMINISTRATION, and which Article XVII relates to and establishes a COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, PROVIDES FOR THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION [PROVIDES FOR STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION], AND SETS FORTH SAID COMMISSION'S POWERS AND DUTIES.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Article XVII to read as follows:

ARTICLE XVII. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sec. 2-152. Established.

There is hereby created a commission to be known as the "City of Alexandria, Virginia, Commission on the Status of Women," herein sometimes referred to as the commission.

Sec. 2-153. Composition; appointment; term; vacancy; chairperson; compensation of members.

The commission shall consist of eleven members appointed at large by the city council. Of the members first appointed four (4) shall be appointed for terms of one (1) year, four (4) shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years, and three (3) shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years. The length of initial terms shall be determined by lot. Thereafter members shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years each. Any vacancy shall be filled by the council for the unexpired portion of a term. A chairperson and a vice chairperson shall be chosen by a majority vote of all the members of the commission. Members shall serve without compensation but may receive such reimbursement for expenses as the council may from time to time allow.

Sec. 2-154. Meetings; quorum; rules of procedure; reports.

The commission shall meet at least once each month from September to June, and may meet in July and August. All meetings shall be open to the public. All members of the commission shall be entitled to vote and the decisions of the commission shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present. A quorum of seven members present is required before the commission may take official action. A member present but not voting shall be considered in counting a quorum. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this article, the commission may establish its own rules, provided these are not contrary to the mandate or spirit of this article. The commission shall render each year by June 30, to the city council a written report of its activities under the provisions of this article along with such comments and recommendations as it may choose to make.

Sec. 2-155. Commission; functions and duties.

The functions of the commission shall be to provide guidance and advice in the effort to eliminate discrimination on account of sex; and more particularly to encourage equal opportunity for women in employment, recreational opportunities and facilities, health services, housing, education, government and community services, and credit.

The commission is hereby authorized to and shall perform the following duties:

(a) Investigate and hold public hearings on discrimination on the basis of sex in employment, education, health, housing, consumer affairs, recreation, credit and other areas where suspected discrimination against women may exist.

(b) Recommend legislation, policy changes, and other actions to the city council, city manager, school board, other public agencies and private organizations.

(c) Receive complaints of sex discrimination and offer assistance and advice to individual complainants.

(d) Conduct educational programs in the city to increase public awareness and sensitivity to sex discrimination, and to the needs and capabilities of women.

(e) Develop and implement an information and referral system for all services and opportunities in the city related to the needs and capabilities of women.

In carrying out its duties, the commission may authorize expenditures, subject to the availability of funds.

Sec. 2-156. Designation of executive director; functions.

The city manager shall appoint an executive director to the commission upon consideration of the recommendations of the commission with respect to such appointment. Such executive director shall report directly to the city manager and may be removed for cause by the city manager. The executive director shall provide such staff assistance to the commission as it may determine to be necessary and proper in furtherance of the functions and duties of the commission, subject to the availability of funds.

Section 2. That the title of and an informal memorandum explaining this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The city clerk shall have the full text of this ordinance printed in sufficient numbers to supply copies to meet request. The city clerk shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
Mayor

Final Passage: June 27, 1974