

ORDINANCE NO. 3534

AN ORDINANCE to add a new Chapter 11 (COMMISSION ON DISABLED PERSONS) to Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

WHEREAS, on October 8, 1974, by Resolution Number 343, the Alexandria City Council established the Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped to assist in identifying the needs of persons with disabilities, coordinate the use of resources to alleviate the problems of persons with disabilities, provide a forum for communication regarding the problems of persons with disabilities and provide policy recommendations about legislation regarding persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 1982, by Resolution Number 907, city council reconstituted the Mayor's Committee for the Handicapped and renamed it the Alexandria Commission for Disabled Persons; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 1990, by Resolution Number 1469, city council again reconstituted the Alexandria Commission for Disabled Persons; and

WHEREAS, for over 15 years, the Alexandria Commission for Disabled Persons, as established by resolution, has assisted the City of Alexandria in meeting the needs and concerns of its population of persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, city council has determined that it is in the interests of the public welfare to reconstitute the Alexandria Commission for Disabled Persons by ordinance; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Title 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding a new Chapter 11 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 11

Alexandria Commission on Disabled Persons

Sec. 12-11-1 Creation of commission.

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the Alexandria Commission on Disabled Persons, hereafter referred to in this chapter as the commission.

Sec. 12-11-2 Composition; appointment; chairperson and officers.

(a) The commission shall consist of 25 members. Of the 25 members, eight shall serve ex officio and 17 shall be appointed

by city council. Only the members appointed by council shall serve as voting members of the commission. The term of each member appointed by council shall be two years.

(1) Ex officio members. Ex officio members of the commission shall be the incumbent of the following positions, or the incumbent's representative, serving as their schedules permit or as needed by the commission: the mayor, the city manager, the superintendent of schools, the director of code enforcement, the director of general services, the director of the health department, the director of the department of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse, and the director of personnel services.

(2) Members appointed by city council. The voting members of the commission appointed by city council shall be: one representative of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, one representative of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, one representative of the Alexandria chamber of commerce and 14 citizen members. A majority of the citizen members shall be persons with disabilities.

(b) The commission shall elect from among its voting members a chairperson and such other officers as it deems necessary.

(c) The commission may establish such committees as it deems necessary to execute its duties and responsibilities.

Sec. 12-11-3 Meetings--quorum; rules of procedure; annual report to council.

The commission shall meet at least once each month from September through June, and may meet in July and August. All meetings of the commission and its committees shall be open to the public to the full extent required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. All members of the commission appointed by council shall be entitled to vote, and the decisions of the commission shall be determined by a majority vote of such members present and voting. A quorum, which shall be at least 50 percent of the non-vacant voting seats of the commission, shall be required for the commission to transact business. A voting member present but not voting shall be considered in counting a quorum. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this chapter, the commission may establish its own rules, provided these are not contrary to the mandate or spirit of this chapter. Otherwise, the rules of procedure set out in Robert's Rules of Order shall apply. The commission shall render to the city council each year, by September 30, a written report describing its activities and accomplishments, along with any comments and recommendations it may choose to make.

Sec. 12-1-4 Functions.

The functions of the commission shall be the following:

(a) to assist the mayor, city council and city manager in responding to the needs of persons with disabilities by providing policy recommendations regarding city and state laws in order to remove physical and other barriers which confront persons with disabilities;

(b) to assist the mayor, city council and city manager in conducting special events and awareness campaigns focusing on persons with disabilities;

(c) to review and make recommendations regarding the city's affirmative action plan for persons with disabilities, women and minorities;

(d) to provide a forum in which persons with disabilities and their advocates may make known the problems and frustrations which face them in their daily lives and make recommendations for corrective actions;

(e) to provide a liaison for effective communication with the city and with other jurisdictions or agencies regarding the conduct of surveys, studies and hearings related to programs and policies for persons with disabilities;

(f) to assist the city in identifying and obtaining outside funds for carrying out programs and projects developed or approved by the commission; and

(g) to review and make recommendations to the mayor, city council and city manager on programs, policies and services that might remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities in housing, transportation, building access, public accommodations, employment, health, social services, credit and education.

Sec. 12-11-5 Staff assistance.

The director of human services shall be responsible for providing staff support to the commission to keep the commission's minutes, files and reports and to assist the commission in the exercise of its functions.

Section 2. That members of the Alexandria Commission on Disabled Persons appointed by council pursuant to resolution number 1469 who are members of the commission on September 14, 1991, shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms as established before passage of this ordinance.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

PATRICIA S. TICER  
Mayor

Final Passage: September 14, 1991