

ORDINANCE NO. 3952

AN ORDINANCE to add a new Chapter 13 (YOUTH POLICY COMMISSION) to Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981.

WHEREAS, following a comprehensive study of youth services programs, the human services committee of the city council, in February 1996, recommended to the city council that the youth-related issues identified by the human services committee be addressed and considered in the context of a more comprehensive youth services study; and

WHEREAS, the city manager authorized such a study of youth services, which was conducted by representatives from public and private organizations and city boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations made by this youth services study represent a significant first step in the city's effort to identify and address issues affecting Alexandria's youth in a more coordinated, collaborative, efficient and accountable manner; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations included:

- (1) the establishment of a youth policy commission, which would be a new city council-appointed commission comprised of community representatives with the authority and responsibility to make recommendations to city council on youth-related issues and on city policy for youth, prenatal to 21 years of age;
- (2) the establishment of a results-oriented system of accountability that would use the indicators of youth well-being developed by the youth services study to measure the effectiveness of city-sponsored and city-funded programs and services for youth; and
- (3) the establishment of an annual evaluation process, using these same indicators of youth well-being, that would measure the progress being made by community programs and services for youth.

WHEREAS, the city council has determined that it is in the public welfare to adopt the recommendation calling for the establishment of a youth policy commission; 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 13 to read as follows:

Chapter 13

Youth Policy Commission

Sec. 12-13-1 Creation of commission.

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the Youth Policy Commission (hereinafter referred to in this chapter as the commission).

Sec. 12-13-2 Composition; appointment; terms; chairperson and officers; committees.

(a) The commission shall consist of 18 members, 17 of whom shall be voting members and one a non-voting member. Nine of the voting members shall be citizens, two shall be from community non-profit agencies that have an interest in youth issues, four shall be from the public sector, and two shall be from city boards or commissions or other groups appointed by city council which have an interest and involvement with youth. The non-voting member shall be a judge from the juvenile and domestic relations court, as determined by the chief judge of that court.

(1) Citizen members. These nine members shall be appointed by city council and shall be city residents. They shall consist of: three parents of children 18 years of age or younger, one of whom shall be a resident of school board election District A, one of whom shall be a resident of District B and one of whom shall be a resident of District C (see section 12-1-4); two individuals eighteen years or younger; two representatives of the business community; and two members of professions which require special training or knowledge in issues affecting youth. The terms of these members shall be three years and shall be staggered.

(2) Community non-profit agency members. These two members shall be appointed by city council and shall be city residents. They shall represent non-profit community agencies that have an interest in youth issues. The terms of these members shall be three years and shall be staggered.

(3) Public sector members. These four members shall be the mayor, the commonwealth's attorney, a member of the school board designated by the board, and a member of the public health advisory commission designated by the commission. The mayor and the commonwealth's attorney shall serve on the commission for so long as he holds office. The other two public sector members shall serve terms of three years which shall be staggered.

(4) City board or commission members. These two members shall be appointed by city council, and shall be residents of the city who are members of city boards or commissions, or other groups established by city council, which, in the course of performing their duties and functions, come into significant contact with the city's youth or which otherwise have an interest in youth issues. The terms of these members shall be three years and shall be staggered.

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

Sec. 12-13-3 Relationship to the early childhood commission and the interagency consortium on adolescent pregnancy.

(a) The early childhood commission, which is responsible to city council for developing program, policy and service recommendations for children up to eight years of age, shall provide input into the commission's overall planning and coordination for youth.

(b) The interagency consortium on adolescent pregnancy, which is responsible for coordinating activities that seek to prevent adolescent pregnancy and to support adolescents who are parenting, shall provide input into the commission's overall planning and coordination for youth.

Sec. 12-13-4 Meetings; quorum; rules of procedure;
annual report.

(a) The commission shall meet at least once a month during the months of September through June, and may meet at such other times it deems necessary or desirable. All voting members of the commission present at a meeting 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 consist of at least 50 percent of the non-vacant seats on the commission (excluding the seat occupied by a judge of the juvenile and domestic relations court), shall be required in order for the commission to transact business. A member eligible to vote who is present but does not vote 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 such rules are not contrary to law or the mandate or spirit of this chapter. Otherwise, the rules of procedure set out in Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.

(b) The commission shall submit to the city council each year a written report of its activities. The report shall also address the matters described in section 12-13-5(b), and may address other matters relating to the city's youth that the commission may choose to make.

Sec. 12-13-5 Functions and duties.

The functions and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) to submit to city council a vision for youth well-being in the city;

(b) to submit to city council an annual report which shall include, but not be limited, to

(1) a plan of action to carry out the commission's vision for youth, which shall include priorities;

(2) an analysis of the outcome of youth program and services measured against indicators of youth well-being; and

(3) recommendations regarding city funding for youth programs and services;

(c) to review progress toward meeting the commission's vision and plan of action by:

(1) monitoring the programs and services that are available to the city's youth to determine their effectiveness in meeting the established priorities; and

(2) holding public hearings, when deemed necessary, to obtain input regarding youth issues from the general public; and

(d) to coordinate responses from and among appropriate city and non-city organizations to emerging and existing issues affecting the city's youth.

Sec. 12-13-6 Staff assistance.

The director of human services shall be responsible for providing staff support to the commission to assist it in carrying out its functions and duties.

Section 2. The determination of which of the initial citizen members, of the initial community non-profit agency members, of the initial public sector members (other than the mayor and the commonwealth's attorney), and of the initial city board or commission members shall serve the terms described below in this section shall be by lot, under the supervision of the executive secretary appointed pursuant to section 2-4-9 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended. Three of the initial citizen members shall serve one-year terms, three shall serve two-year terms and three shall serve three-year terms. One of the initial community non-profit agency members shall serve a two-year term, and the other initial member shall serve a three-year term. The initial designee member of the school board shall serve a three-year term, and the initial designee member of the public health advisory committee shall serve a one-year term. One of the initial city board or commission members shall serve a one-year term, and the other initial member shall serve a two-year term.

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

Section 4. That this ordinance shall expire and be of no further effect on December 31, 1998.

KERRY J. DONLEY
Mayor

Introduction: 9/9/97
First Reading: 9/9/97
Publication: 9/10/97; 9/11/97
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