

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PURPOSE

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) advises the Council in creating an environment within the City in which all persons can enjoy equal rights and opportunities regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical, mental, sexual orientation or economic status. The Commission makes recommendations to the Council or the CAO on how these social concerns and human needs can best be addressed. It is desired and expected that specific functions of the HRC will change as solutions are found to specific problems or as times change, and the needs and priorities of the community in this field evolve.

FUNCTIONS

1. To promote mutual understanding and foster harmonious relations between persons and groups within the community, and provide a forum for residents to discuss problems relating to human rights and relations;
2. To receive and investigate complaints concerning community tensions and acts of discrimination, and cooperate with and assist other human services groups that have similar purposes;
3. To make recommendations to the Council when action is proposed as a means to insuring community cooperation and understanding;
4. To evaluate perceived inadequacies in human rights and services and to recommend possible action;
5. To review, evaluate and make recommendations on all City funding requests from groups that provide human services and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); to provide liaison to recipients of grants-in-aid monies, through personal contact and required activity and budget reports;
6. Such duties, including studies and research, as the Council deems necessary and appropriate and assigns to the Commission.
7. To help foster good relations between the Homeless Shelter and surrounding neighborhood and the integration of homeless services.

STATUS

The Commission was established by the Council in 1964. (Established by motion 1/6/64, SLOMC Chapter 2.56, amended by Ordinance No. 1150 [1989 Series]; Bylaws amended by Resolution No. 9057 [2000 Series]). The Commission oversees City-approved programs such as a referral service for those members of the community in need. The HRC staff is in contact with other human service agencies throughout the City, county and state.

MEMBERS

The HRC has seven members and is staffed by the Human Resources Department. While there are no special qualifications for applicants, the Council usually seeks individuals with experience, or a demonstrated interest in community social issues.

MEETINGS

Monthly – First Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Hearing Room, City Hall.

TERMS/LIMITS

Members of the Commission serve a term of four years. Members are eligible for re-appointment for an additional four years. Members are subject to a term limit of eight years, or two consecutive four-year terms.