

VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
ORDINANCE 2022-13

**AMENDING CHAPTER 276 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF TITLE EIGHT
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF PART TWO ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO**

WHEREAS, extensive discussion about the roles and functions of the Village's Human Relations Commission ("HRC") have taken place between Council and HRC members; and

WHEREAS, the Human Relations Commission was established by Ordinance 63-02 on August 19, 1963, with a core function to "eliminate prejudice and discrimination within the Village of Yellow Springs against any individual or group because of race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry, inasmuch as such prejudice and discrimination are inimical to our American tradition of equality of opportunity. The Human Relations Commission shall endeavor to bring about and maintain harmony among the citizens of Yellow Springs and to avoid intergroup tensions and to promote tolerance and good will and to insure equality of treatment and of opportunity of all persons regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or ancestry"; and

WHEREAS, the HRC's initial duties included responsibility to investigate complaints of "racial, religious and ethnic group tensions, prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and disorder" as well as discrimination against any person, group of persons, organization or corporation, whether practiced by private persons, associations or other groups, as well as the power to conduct hearings in a quasi-judicial capacity with approval of Council, but the investigatory and quasi-judicial powers were reduced by Ordinance 1979-13, effective June 21, 1979, instead giving HRC a function as "a mediating and conciliatory body upon request or with the consent of the affected parties, in those cases where HRC deems its participation to be appropriate" and

WHEREAS, the HRC's duties were recodified by Ordinance 2015-25, passed November 16, 2015, reiterating the purpose of the body as "promoting harmony among the citizens of the Village and working to eliminate prejudice and discrimination within the Village against any individual or group because of race, religion, nationality, heritage, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or economic class" (VCO 276.01) and duties to "Monitor human relations and social issues and trends in the Village, serving as a sounding board for issues related to its purpose and

provide feedback and information to Council” while referring “specific interpersonal conflicts to the Village Mediation Program, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the Federal Housing Administration or other appropriate bodies”; and

WHEREAS, Council liaisons for the HRC and JSC have noted that Council’s goal of intentionally promoting “anti-racism, inclusion, equity and accessibility through all policies, procedures and processes” would be served by amending the purpose of the HRC to include advancing social justice overall,

**NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
HEREBY ORDAINS THAT:**

Section 1. That Chapter 276 Human Relations Commission of Title Eight Boards and Commissions of Part Two Administration Code of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio is amended as set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated by reference, with new language **underlined and bolded** and deleted language in ~~strikethrough~~.

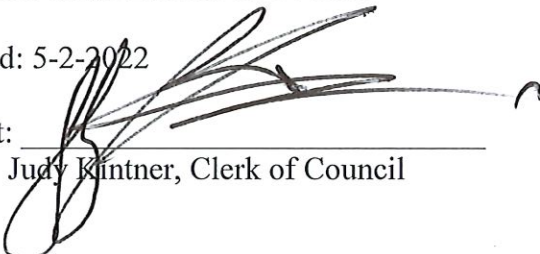
Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force at the earliest date permitted by law.



Brian Housh, President of Council

Passed: 5-2-2022

Attest:



Judy Klintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL: Brian Housh__Y__ Marianne MacQueen__Y__ Kevin Stokes__Y__
Lisa Kreeger__Y__ Carmen Brown__Y__

CHAPTER 276

Human Relations Commission

[276.01](#) Establishment and Purpose.

[276.02](#) Membership and Procedure.

[276.03](#) Powers and Duties.

[276.04](#) Reports.

[277.05](#) Compensation.

CROSS REFERENCES

Power of Council to establish - see CHTR. § [17](#)

276.01 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.

There is hereby re-established in and for the Village a Commission, which shall be known as the Human Relations Commission, for the purpose of ~~promoting harmony among the citizens of the Village and working to eliminate prejudice and discrimination within the Village against any individual or group because of race, religion, nationality, heritage, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or economic class.~~ **advancing social justice by addressing prejudice and discrimination within the Village against any individual or group because of race, religion, nationality, heritage, gender, age, disability, sexual identity or economic status while upholding civil liberties and providing capacity regarding research regarding best practices in active anti-racism and in equity, diversity and inclusivity activities as directed by Village Council.**

(Ord. 2015-25. Passed 11-16-15.)

276.02 MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURE.

(a) The Human Relations Commission will consist of five to seven members who are appointed by Council subsequent to submitting a letter of interest and resume and being interviewed and recommended by two Council members.

(b) One member shall be a Council Liaison, appointed to serve at the pleasure of Council, charged with coordinating Commission activities in line with Village goals and objectives and ensuring communication between Council and the Commission. The other members shall be appointed for three-year terms. At the outset, some members shall be assigned two-year terms, and some members shall be assigned three-year terms, after which all terms shall be three years in duration. Members shall serve until their successor is appointed by Council or they are no longer eligible to serve.

(c) Up to two members can be at-large members if there are no qualified Village resident candidates or there are other compelling reasons in line with the purpose of the Human Relations Commission. However, the Human Relations Commission will consist of a majority of Village residents, and non-resident members should only be appointed in exceptional circumstances.

(d) Each member of the Human Relations Commission shall demonstrate experience, expertise and/or education that is relevant to the purpose, powers and duties of the Commission. The members of the Human Relations Commission shall be as broadly representative of the residents of the Village as possible. The Village Manager or Assistant Village Manager will serve as an ex officio member.

(e) The Human Relations Commission shall annually select a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Except in unusual circumstances, the Council Liaison will not serve as an officer. If the Human Relations Commission is appropriated a budget, it shall also elect a Treasurer. The Chair creates the agenda and leads the meeting. The Vice-Chair fills in for the Chair in her or his absence and takes on other responsibilities as appropriate. The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes and sending them to the Clerk of Council in a timely manner after approval.

(f) Generally, a Commission member shall serve no more than two full consecutive terms. However, Council may determine in certain situations that extending a Commission member's term is appropriate. In the event of the death or resignation of any member, a successor shall be appointed by Council to serve for the unexpired period of the term for which such member has been appointed.

(g) Council is authorized to appoint up to two alternate members to serve on the Human Relations Commission. An alternate member shall be selected for a term of two years and shall be a resident of the Village. Alternate members are encouraged to attend Human Relations Commission meetings, whether or not they are serving as a member of the Commission at that meeting. However, there is no requirement that an alternate member attend meetings at which she or he is not asked to serve as a Human Relations Commission member. In any event, no alternate member shall cast a vote on a matter that was heard, in part or in full, at a prior meeting that the alternate member did not attend. If an alternate member is present as a Human Relations Commission member and a vote is to be taken on a matter for which the alternate member was not present during part or all of the hearing on the matter, the alternate member shall not be considered as part of the quorum for purposes of determining a majority of the quorum of the Human Relations Commission in deciding votes for and against matters. An alternate may apply to be a Commission member if a seat becomes open in the manner outlined in subsection (a) hereof.

(h) A majority of current Human Relations Commission members shall constitute a quorum, and the concurring vote of a majority shall be necessary to take any action authorized by the Code.

(i) The Human Relations Commission will have available to it through the Village Manager's office, without cost to its members, those things necessary to carry out its charge, such as a meeting room, copying/printing and postage. Any other expenditure of funds must be approved by Council.

(Ord. 2015-25. Passed 11-16-15.)

276.03 POWERS AND DUTIES.

The Human Relations Commission shall:

(a) ~~Advocate to eliminate prejudice and discrimination with the Village~~ **inform Village Council regarding advocacy efforts to eliminate prejudice and discrimination within the Village through equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives; monitor social justice issues and trends in the Village, and serve as a sounding board for issues related to promoting social justice;**

(b) Initiate public education activities related to its purpose;

(c) Conduct an annual planning process that results in priorities and specific activities centering on its purpose, which will include adopting rules and procedures (or otherwise following Robert's Rules of Order) to carry out its purpose that are consistent with the Village Charter and Ohio Sunshine Laws, approved by Council and filed with the Clerk of Council;

(d) Keep minutes of its proceedings that reflect the actions of the Human Relations Commission, the reasoning behind those recommendations, and the vote of each member upon each question or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating as such. Minutes and the records of all official actions shall be approved and filed with the Clerk of Council and kept as a public record;

(e) Hold regular public meetings that are properly announced and provide a list of agenda items to the Clerk of Council a week before a regular meeting, which is available to interested citizens;

(f) Monitor human relations and social justice issues and trends in the Village, serving as a sounding board for issues related to its purpose and provide feedback and information to Council, which may include coordinating, assisting and unifying the efforts of private groups, institutions and individuals within the Village and Miami Township in accordance with the purposes of this chapter as well as liaising and communicating with public and private agencies and organizations of local, regional, State and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the human relations or which can be of assistance to the Commission;

(g) Advise Council as to possible courses of action with regard to such issues and trends;

(h) Facilitate connections between organizations in the Village that touch such issues and trends, and maintain a list of such organizations and contact information;

(i) Refer specific interpersonal conflicts to the Village Mediation Program, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the Federal Housing Administration or other appropriate bodies, and support those organizations in the resolution of those conflicts;

(j) Recommend to Council actions that could be taken to accomplish the goals of the Village;

(k) Carry out such other duties as may be assigned to it by Council.
(Ord. 2015-25. Passed 11-16-15.)

276.04 REPORTS.

The Human Relations Commission shall submit an annual report to Council concerning the activities and work of the Commission and from time to time shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

(Ord. 2015-25. Passed 11-16-15.)

276.05 COMPENSATION.

The members of the Human Relations Commission shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof.

(Ord. 2015-25. Passed 11-16-15.)