

## § 27-7. Human Relations Commission.

### A. Establishment.

- (1) There is hereby established the Human Relations Commission of the City of Allentown composed of 13 members, who shall by first choice be residents of the City appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval and confirmation of City Council, and who shall serve without compensation. In the event the requirements of the position and/or availability of volunteers cannot be found within the City, then the members need not be residents of the City of Allentown but must be either a City of Allentown taxpayer, maintain a business, be employed or go to school in the City of Allentown.
- (2) The members shall be 18 years or older and shall serve overlapping terms of three years each; one of said 13 members shall be appointed from among the members of the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City upon recommendation of the Board of School Directors; said member shall be a member of the Human Relations Commission only so long as he or she continues to be a member of the Board of School Directors. There shall be nonvoting high school representatives, one from Allen High School, one from Dieruff High School, one from Central Catholic High School and a representative from other schools in the City of Allentown, provided they are a resident of the City. The student representatives shall serve terms of one year each. Any vacancy in an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. **[Amended 5-5-2011 by Ord. No. 14890]**

### B. Powers and duties. The Commission is hereby vested with the authority to administer and enforce this chapter and shall be given sufficient administrative and legal support from City staff persons to carry out the following powers and duties: **[Amended 7-15-2020 by Ord. No. 15617]**

- (1) To meet and function at any place within the City;
- (2) To adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind rules and regulations to effect the policies and provisions of this chapter and to make recommendations to agencies of the City of Allentown and the City Council thereof to effect such policies;
- (3) To initiate, receive, investigate and pass upon complaints charging unlawful discriminatory practices in violation of §§ 27-3, 27-4, 27-5 and 27-6 taking place within the City limits of Allentown.
- (4) To study the problems of discrimination and foster, through community effort or otherwise, good will among the groups and elements of the population of the City;
- (5) To issue such publications and such results of investigations and research as, in its judgment, will tend to promote good will and minimize or eliminate discrimination;
- (6) From time to time, but not less than once a year, to report to the Mayor or his designee, and the City Council of the City of Allentown, describing in detail the investigations, proceedings, hearings and studies it has conducted and their outcome, the decisions it has rendered and the other work performed by it, and make recommendations for such further legislation concerning abuses and discrimination;

- (7) The Human Relations Commission shall annually prepare a written report of their year's activities, a one-year plan and long-term goals and scenarios that promote the elimination of discrimination and strife among racial or ethnic groups using a template provided by City Council. The report shall be given to the Mayor and shall be presented to Allentown City Council at a public meeting. **[Amended 6-2-2010 by Ord. No. 14800; 7-15-2020 by Ord. No. 15617]**
- C. The Department of Community and Economic Development shall provide administrative support services to the Commission. **[Amended 12-16-1993 by Ord. No. 13230]**