

*City of Middletown, CT
Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

Chapter 14. Boards, Committees and Commissions

Article I. Commission on Human Relations

[Adopted 2-8-1978 as Ch. 24, Art. II of the 1978 Code; amended in its entirety 12-2-2002]

§ 14-1. Establishment.

It being essential to the health, safety and welfare of this City and its inhabitants that differences of race, creed and national origin serve as sources of individual and community strength rather than as causes of discrimination, segregation and restricted opportunity, a Commission on Human Relations shall be and is hereby established.

§ 14-2. Membership; terms of office; Chairman; vacancies.

This Commission shall consist of nine members who shall reside in or be employed in the City of Middletown. They shall be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council and shall serve without compensation. Of the nine members first appointed, three shall serve for a term of three years (one of whom shall be designated as the Chairman of the Commission); three shall be appointed for a term of two years; and three shall be appointed for a term of one year. After the first term of three years, the Commission shall then elect its own Chairman, and thereafter all appointments to the Commission shall be for a term of three years. In the event of the death, disability or resignation of any member of the Commission, his successor shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Common Council to serve the unexpired period of the term.

§ 14-3. Functions.

The functions of the Commission shall be:

- A. To foster mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups of the community.
- B. To ensure equality of treatment of any racial, religious, or ethnic group, or any of its members.
- C. To assure equality of opportunity for all individuals.
- D. To cooperate with governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations having functions similar to those of this Commission.
- E. To make such studies as in the judgment of the Commission will aid in furthering the aims of this article.

§ 14-4. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be:

- A. To enlist the cooperation of the various racial, religious, and ethnic groups, community organizations, labor organizations and fraternal and benevolent associations, and other groups in programs and campaigns devoted to eliminating group prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination.
- B. To study the problems of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and disorder occasioned thereby in all or any fields of human relationship.
- C. To receive complaints of racial, religious and ethnic group tensions, prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and disorder occasioned thereby, and discrimination against any persons, group of persons, organizations, or corporations, and to refer such complaints to the proper agency having jurisdiction in the particular matter.
- D. To publish, when appropriate, publications and reports of research designed to promote good will and to minimize or eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination.
- E. To recommend to the Common Council legislation to aid in implementing, improving or strengthening programs to accomplish equality of opportunity and the elimination of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination.

§ 14-5. Assistance of City agencies.

The Commission on Human Relations shall have available the services of other City departments and agencies for the assistance of the Commission in its proper functions.

§ 14-6. Director.

[Amended 5-2-2016 by Ord. No. 06-16]

There shall be a Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management to be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council. The Director shall act as the staff for the Commission on Human Relations and shall perform the duties required by ordinance or resolution of the Common Council.