

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
ORDINANCE NO. 20-_____**

**AN ORDINANCE RECONSTITUTING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND
PARK HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AMENDING THE
“CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010”**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park established a Human Relations Commission in 1987 to foster, through community effort or otherwise, good will, cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of the inhabitants of the Borough and charge the Commission with making recommendations to the Borough Council for the development of policies and procedures in general and for programs of formal or informal education, with an emphasis on humanity and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park wishes to reconstitute and strengthen this Commission in order to establish within said Commission standing subcommittees which will serve as the Borough’s Commission on Immigrant and Refugee affairs and a new anti-Semitism Commission in order to aid in eliminating all types of discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or preference, physical or mental handicaps in order to foster the purposes of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and amendments thereto.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Highland Park Council, County of Middlesex that Chapter 9 of the “Code of the Borough of Highland Park, 2010” is amended by revising Articles I, XII and XXIV to read as follows: ([Represents deleted material], underlined represents new material).

ARTICLE I

Section 1. Human Relations Commission

§ 9-1. Appointment

- A. The Commission shall consist of [13] 21 residents of the Borough, all of whom shall serve without compensation. Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of three years, commencing on April 17 of each year, and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.
- B. The terms of the members appointed shall be so determined that to the greatest practical extent the expiration of such terms shall be distributed evenly over the first three years, after their appointment, provided that the initial term of no member shall exceed three years. Thereafter, the terms of each member shall be for three years. Nothing in this subsection shall, however, be construed to affect the term of any present member of the Human Relations Commission, all of whom shall continue in office until the completion of the term for which they were appointed. The Mayor shall annually appoint, with the advice and consent of the Borough Council, a Chairperson whose term shall commence April 17.
- C. A vacancy occurring otherwise by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term only.
- D. There shall also be two alternate members of the Human Relations Commission appointed by the Mayor of the Borough. The alternate members shall be designated at the time of the appointment by the Mayor as "Alternate No. 1" and "Alternate No. 2." The terms of the alternate members shall be for three years from the date of appointment, except that the terms of the alternate members shall be such that the term of not more than one alternate member shall expire in any one year; provided, however, that in no instance shall be terms of the alternate members first appointed exceed two years.
- E. The alternate members may participate in discussions of the proceedings but may not vote except in the absence or disqualification of a regular member. A vote shall not be delayed in order that a regular member may vote instead of an alternate member. In the event that a choice must be made as to which alternate member is to vote, Alternate No. 1 shall vote.
- F. In addition to the full-term members there shall be two student members who shall be appointed in the same manner for terms of one year. Student members shall have completed their sophomore year in high school at the time of their appointment and may not be appointed or reappointed after graduation from high school.

- G. In addition to the full-term members, there shall be a Board of Education Liaison, appointed by the Mayor of the Borough of Highland Park. The Liaison shall be appointed for a one-year term. The Liaison may participate in discussions of the proceedings but may not vote.
- H. In addition to the full-term members, there shall be a Police Department Liaison, appointed by the Mayor of the Borough of Highland Park. The Liaison shall be appointed for a one-year term. The Liaison may participate in discussions of the proceedings and may vote.

§ 9-2. Purpose; policies and programs .

The Commission shall attempt to foster, through community effort or otherwise, goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of the inhabitants of the Borough and is empowered to make recommendations to the Borough Council for the development of policies and procedures in general and for programs of formal or informal education, with an emphasis on humanity and cultural diversity, that will aid in eliminating all types of discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, gender, sexual orientation/preference, or physical or mental handicaps of any individual or because of the liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States. The local commission shall have such further powers and duties as may be provided by the said Law Against Discrimination of the State of New Jersey and by amendments thereto.

§ 9-2.1 Standing Committees of the Commission.

Appointments shall be made by the Commission to the following standing Committees:

A. Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs: This standing Committee shall consist of five members of the Commission. This committee shall recommend to the Commission and the Commission to the Borough Council policies related to the Borough's Immigrant Community, including the Borough's underserved and marginalized immigrant populations. This Committee shall also monitor the policies stated in the Borough's Inclusive Community Resolution and in any related actions, executive orders and directives thereof.

B. Anti-Semitism Committee. This standing Committee shall consist of five members. The Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- A. To make recommendations to the Commission and the Mayor and Council to implement policies in furtherance of the Borough Council Resolution No. 10-19-316, Resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism.
- B. Recommend educational programs to educate residents of the Borough about anti-Semitism.

Section 2. Article XII, Chapter 9 which previously established a separate Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs is hereby rescinded since the commission is now a part of the Human Relations Commission.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as provided for by law.

Introduced and Passed
on First Reading: August 18, 2020

Adopted:

Approved:

Attest:

Joan Hullings, Municipal Clerk

Gayle Brill-Mittler, Mayor