

320.03. Human rights commission. Subdivision 1. Policy. It is the public policy of the city of Robbinsdale to strive to secure for all residents of the city freedom from illegal discrimination in employment, housing and real property, public accommodations, public services and education consistent with the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The human rights commission has been established to assist the city council in carrying out this policy. (Amended, Ord. No. 99-03)

Subd. 2. Meetings and membership. There is established and continued a commission to be known as the human rights commission consisting of 11 members. The commission is appointed by the mayor and with the advice and consent of the city council. The commission must designate one of the members as chairperson. The members are appointed and hold office concurrent with the term of the mayor. The members of the commission serve at the pleasure of the council. A member's term may be terminated upon a majority vote of the council. The commission must attempt to hold bi-monthly meetings. The chair of the advisory commission may cancel a regular meeting if, after consultation with the staff liaison, it is determined that there is insufficient business to require that the meeting be held. Members of the commission serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for personal expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. (Amended, Ord. No. 99-03; Ord. No. 06-01)

Subd. 3. Duties. The duties of the Human Rights Commission are: (a) to advise the Council on matters and problems relating to discrimination and human rights issues and behavior in the city; (b) to recommend to the Council education, municipal and community programs designed to effectuate the policies set forth in this subsection; (c) to implement such programs referred to in (b) as may be directed for Commission action by the Council; (d) to recommend to the City Council the formulation and implementation of programs designed to effectuate the policies stated in this subsection; (e) to study and make recommendations to the City Council for referral to the Commissioner of Human Rights; (f) to perform other functions, approved by the City Council and authorized for local commissions under the Minnesota Human Rights Act. (Amended, Ord. No. 99-03)

Subd. 4. Cooperation. The services of city departments and agencies will be made available by their respective heads to the Commission at its request, and information in the hands of any department or agency will be furnished to the Commission when requested. Upon receipt of recommendations in writing for the Commission, each department or agency under the direction of the city manager must submit a written reply indicating the disposition of an action taken with regard to such recommendations.

Subd. 5. Consultation. The Commission must advise and consult with the mayor and City Council on all matters involving legally prohibited prejudice or discrimination and recommend such legislative action as it may deem appropriate to effectuate the policy of this subsection.

Subd. 6. Cooperation with civic groups and governmental agencies. The Commission must invite and enlist the cooperation of racial, religious and ethnic groups, community organizations, labor and business organizations, fraternal and benevolent societies, veteran's organizations, professional and technical organizations, and other groups in the city in carrying on its work. The Commission may aid in the formation of local community groups in neighborhoods as it may deem necessary or desirable to carry out specific programs designed to lessen tensions or improve understanding in the city. The Commission must cooperate with state and federal agencies whenever it deems such action appropriate in effecting the policy of this subsection.

Subd. 7. Investigations, research, and publications. The Commission may research and investigate allegations and complaints. In accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, the Commission may conduct public hearings to gather and disseminate information regarding illegal discrimination in employment, housing and real property, public accommodations, public services and education. (Amended, Ord. No. 99-03)