ORDINANCE NO. 17681

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Councilmember Betty Dunn relating to the Topeka Human Relations Commission amending City of Topeka Code §§ 86-2, 86-28, 2-146, and 2-185 and repealing said original sections.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS:

Section 1. City of Topeka Code § 86-2, Same – Specific duties and responsibilities, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Same--Specific duties and responsibilities.

The commission's executive director shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) To be the administrative head of the Topeka Human Relations Commission;

(2) To endeavor to eliminate prejudice because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, or age in the city and to further goodwill among all people of the city;

(3) To administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter;

(4) To adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind suitable rules and regulations as directed by the Commission for consideration by the Commission, carry out the provisions of this act and the policies and practices of the Commission in connection therewith;

(5) To receive, investigate, decide and attempt to conciliate or refer all complaints filed in accordance with this chapter;
(6) To exercise any other duties and responsibilities specified as the director's
in any section of this chapter, or any other city ordinance;

(7) To delegate duties, functions and responsibilities to any staff personnel
employed as authorized;

(8) To appoint conciliation committees, as needed, from among the commission
members; and

(9) To perform additional duties and responsibilities allocated by the mayor or the
chief administrative officer, as the need may arise;:

(10) To support the Commission to endeavor to eliminate prejudice because of
race, religion, creed, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, or age
and further goodwill among all people of the city; promote goodwill,
cooperation and conciliation; support the Commission in seeking additional
funding to effectuate the purposes of this article; issue such publications,
results of investigation not confidential in nature, and research as, in the
judgment of the city attorney's office and director, will tend to promote
goodwill and minimize or eliminate discrimination; and advise and support the
Commission and staff and receive and accept reports; and

(11) By March 1 of each year, to prepare and submit to the City and the City
Council a plan to address any problems or deficiencies identified by the
Commission in its annual report required by City of Topeka Code § 86-28(3).

Section 2. City of Topeka Code § 86-28, Duties and Responsibilities, is hereby
amended to read as follows:

Duties and responsibilities.
The Commission will:

(1) Support the director to endeavor to eliminate prejudice because of race, religion, creed, color, sex, disability, national origin or ancestry, or age and further goodwill among all people of the city; promote goodwill, cooperation and conciliation; support the director in seeking additional funding to effectuate the purposes of this article; issue such publications, results of investigation not confidential in nature, and research as, in the judgment of the city attorney's office and director, will tend to promote goodwill and minimize or eliminate discrimination; and advise and support the commission director and staff and receive and accept reports.

(2) Permit the filing and investigation of complaints and hold such public hearings as are further provided for in this chapter.

(3) By February 1 of each year, prepare and submit an annual report to the city and the city council of the commission's activities, the executive director and staff in investigating complaints, resolving or conciliating complaints, determining allegations, issuing orders, identifying issues and problem areas within the Topeka community and, after reviewing the performance of the commission, executive director and staff during the year, shall propose any modifications to this chapter that would improve the effectiveness of enforcement by the commission and better fulfill the antidiscrimination policies of the city.

(4) Adopt, amend and rescind suitable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this act and the policies and practices of the commission in connection therewith;

(5) Review investigations and make probable cause determinations.
Section 3. City of Topeka Code § 2-146, Department of human resources created, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Department of human resources created.

There is hereby established a department of human resources. The director of human resources shall be appointed by the mayor and serve under the administrative direction of the mayor or chief administrative officer and shall be responsible for managing all personnel matters including labor negotiations and employee benefits. The human relations commission shall also be under the administrative direction of the director of human resources. The director may establish the divisions necessary to properly carry out the functions of the department. The director may appoint a deputy human resources director and division directors as necessary, all of whom shall serve under the administrative direction of the director of human resources.

Section 4. City of Topeka Code § 2-185, Human Relations Commission, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Human relations commission.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of the human relations commission is to endeavor to eliminate prejudice among various racial, ethnic and other groups in the city and to further goodwill among all people of the city. The commission and each commissioner shall fulfill the duties and responsibilities as set forth in chapter 86 of the Code of the City of Topeka.

(b) Membership. The human relations commission shall consist of seven nine members appointed by the mayor and approved by a majority of the city council. Each councilmember shall appoint one member from the city at large. Members of the commission shall serve two year terms or until a successor is appointed. Members shall
be drawn from diverse racial, ethnic, commercial, industrial and other segments of the community and shall be citizens of Topeka. Members shall serve without compensation.

Section 5. City of Topeka Code §§ 86-2, 86-28, 2-146, and 2-185 are hereby specifically repealed.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council

Harry S. Elder
Mayor

ATTEST:

Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 5/16/01 BY
TO BE CODIFIED
NOT TO BE CODIFIED