

Open Board Member Seat Human Rights Commission

Amberley Village is accepting applications for the newly created Human Rights Commission. Village residency required.

On April 9, 2018, Amberley Village Council passed Ordinance 2018-4, an Ordinance to Combat Discrimination and for the Guarantee of Equality and Inclusion. This ordinance establishes the creation of a Human Rights Commission, whose mission is to encourage and endeavor to bring about mutual understanding and respect among all persons, and to safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of discrimination. The Commission will be comprised of five members, each serving staggered 3-year terms, except for the initial appointments, which will be from 1-3 years each. The Village is seeking a balanced representation of our community, reflecting the diversity of Amberley Village.

The deadline for submissions is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 14, 2018. Please send to the attention of Village Manager Scot Lahrmer at 7149 Ridge Road, Amberley Village, Ohio 45237 or email to slahrmer@amberleyvillage.org.

Questions can be directed to Village Manager Scot Lahrmer at (513) 531-8675 or slahrmer@amberleyvillage.org.

Information about the purpose, intent, and structure of the Human Rights Commission is explained below in section excerpts from Village Ordinance 2018-4:

§ 102.01 STATEMENT OF INTENT.

It is the intent of Amberley Village to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on one's membership in a Protected Class such as age, race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, family status, military status, sex, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation ("Protected Class"). The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health and welfare of all persons who live in, work in, or visit the Village.

It is important to ensure equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations, and education in the Village. The denial of these rights to persons in a Protected Class is contrary to the principles of freedom and equality of opportunity and is destructive to a free and democratic society.

§ 102.02 DEFINITIONS.

All words utilized in this ordinance shall be ascribed their ordinary meaning unless otherwise defined herein.

§ 102.03 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; PURPOSE.

A non-partisan Human Rights Commission is hereby established to be known as the Amberley Village Human Rights Commission (the “Commission”). The purpose of the Commission is not to penalize, but to encourage and endeavor to bring about mutual understanding and respect among all persons, and to safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to be free from all forms of discrimination.

§ 102.04 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; MEMBERS.

The Amberley Village Human Rights Commission shall be comprised of five members appointed as follows: one member shall be appointed by the Village Manager; one member shall be appointed by the Village Mayor; and three members shall be appointed by a majority vote of Village Council. All members of the Commission shall be residents of the Village.

Members of the Commission shall serve voluntarily and without compensation, except for reimbursement of any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in performance for the Commission. No member shall be a current employee, officer, elected official, agent, or contractor with the Village.

Except for members’ initial terms which shall be staggered, each member shall serve a term of three years commencing on the effective date of this Ordinance. Members shall be eligible for reappointment; however, no member shall serve more than three consecutive terms. Members shall serve beyond the end of a term until a replacement is appointed by the respective authority. A member shall be deemed to have abandoned the position and resigned upon missing three consecutive regular meetings of the Commission without being excused by the Commission as reflected

in the minutes. Any vacancy shall be filled by the authority which made the initial appointment for the position. Members appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term of the vacant position.

§ 102.05 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; ORGANIZATION.

The Amberley Village Human Rights Commission is a non-legislative public body of the Village. The Commission shall convene the initial organizational meeting of appointed Members at its earliest opportunity. The Commission shall organize at its initial meeting by electing one Member as Chair and one Member as Vice-Chair. The Commission may select additional Members to serve as officers if found to be necessary and proper for the effective organization and operation of the Commission. Each officer shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor officer is duly elected.

§ 102.06 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; MEETINGS.

The Amberley Village Human Rights Commission shall convene at least once each year to elect officers and as otherwise requested by a Member of the Commission, the Village Manager, the Village Mayor, or the Village Council. Any three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Commission may act upon a majority vote of Members present at a meeting. The Commission shall report to the Village Council at least twice every 12 months.

Meetings of the Commission must be public according to the Ohio Sunshine Laws. Public notice of any meetings must be provided at least 48 hours in advance, and minutes must be maintained. Any documents, evidence, and other records maintained or created by the Commission or submitted to the Commission, are public records subject to the Ohio Public Records Act.

§ 102.07 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; POWERS AND DUTIES.

The Amberley Village Human Rights Commission is hereby authorized and empowered as follows:

(a) The Commission may create and modify rules regarding its meetings, hearings, and procedures to carry out its functions. At its discretion, the Commission

may accept volunteer services, including volunteer services of private legal counsel.

(b) The Commission may create committees and sub-committees comprised of Members and other volunteers, which in its judgment will aid in effectuating the purposes of the Commission, including, but not limited to: a committee formed to study the problem of discrimination; a committee formed to foster good will, cooperation and conciliation among the diverse groups and population of the Village; and a committee formed to make recommendations to the Commission for the development and implementation of programs of formal and informal education and public awareness.

(c) The Commission may, with the consent and approval of the Village Manager, call upon other officers, departments and agencies of the Village government to assist in its programs and projects. The Commission may recommend to Village Council policies, procedures, practices and legislation in all relevant matters.

(d) The Commission may enlist the cooperation of racial, religious, ethnic, community and civic organizations, and other identifiable groups of the Village, in its programs and campaigns devoted to the education and advancement of tolerance, understanding and equal protection of the law for all groups and individuals regardless of membership in a Protected Class.

(e) The Commission may seek and accept contributions, financial or otherwise, on behalf of the Village from any person including but not limited to any private, public, governmental, charitable, religious, labor, civic or benevolent organizations, in furtherance of its mission.

(f) The Commission may formulate and develop programs and opportunities (i.e. forums, workshops, research, and publications) to collect and disseminate information regarding the work of the Commission, to minimize or eliminate discrimination, and to promote good will among all persons who live in, work in, or visit the Village.

(g) The Commission shall develop a program to receive and report complaints from persons who live in, work in, or visit the Village. In its discretion the Commission may seek to conciliate any complaint with the express written consent

of the complainant in order to ensure equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations, and education in the Village.

(h) The Commission shall cooperate and work with relevant federal, state and local government offices and agencies.