

Chapter 2.36  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION\*

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\* For statutory authority for cities to act on behalf of interracial, interethnic and interreligious peace, see Gov. Code § 50261, et seq.

**2.36.010 Creation.**

There is created a Human Relations Commission. The provisions of Article VI of the City Charter, Chapter 2.25 CVMC and this chapter shall govern this Commission.

**2.36.020 Purpose and intent.**

A. It is the purpose and intent of the City Council to redefine and broaden the duties and functions of the Human Relations Commission as an advisory body, to make recommendations and offer advice to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager on the rights of every inhabitant of the City of Chula Vista and in the improvement and effectiveness of the interrelationships between the various racial, religious, ethnigroups based on race, religion, color, ancestry, socioeconomic, age and disabled groups, sex (including gender identity, gender expression, transgender, pregnancy and breastfeeding), sexual orientation, place of birth, citizenship/immigration status, marital status, military service, disability, medical condition, genetic characteristics or information, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local laws of citizens forming the social body of the City and to advise the City on how it may best proceed in the realization of its stated goal to provide both physical and social answers to the human care needs of said groupssupport healthy community, strong and secure neighborhoods and a connected community as it seeks to promote ways in which the community gets along and safeguards equal opportunity for everyone and to accomplish, among other things:

1. The development of a mutual understanding and respect among all such groups in the City and to help eliminate prejudice and discrimination;
2. The establishment and maintenance of contacts with groups in the community which are concerned with protection of civil liberties of all people, resolution of conflict, and interracial and intercultural understanding, and to report to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager regarding the activities of these groups;
3. The promotion of new and improved programs of services to all local citizens in cooperation with peer boards and commissions as well as the City Manager; to increase intergroup relations and harmony.
4. The encouragement of citizen participation in local government by providing a forum for discussion so as to avoid recourse to conflict and disorder as a means of resolving community relationship problems;

5. The protection and strengthening of the rights of ~~various racial, religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, age and disabled~~all groups ~~of citizens of Chula Vista~~ to ensure ~~full~~the enjoyment of their constitutional privileges ~~without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex or age~~ and the elimination thereby of prejudice, discrimination or bigotry in this community;
6. The advancement of programs to assist senior citizens in the realization and satisfaction of their needs ~~for adequate and decent housing, food, clothing~~ and other social concerns;  
~~7. The strengthening and improvement of programs to stimulate housing for low and moderate income families and individuals;~~
7. The encouragement of policies and programs to fully integrate disabled persons into the mainstream of community life in the City;  
~~B. It is also intended that~~
8. ~~The encouragement of the Human Relations Commission will advise the City Mayor, City Council on matters involving, City Manager and all officers, agencies, boards, departments, and employees of the City of Chula Vista public transportation services, relating~~take steps to ~~operational~~enhance peace and good order, and provide equal opportunity for and good will toward all people;
9. ~~Prepare a written report of its activities and especially as to how well these services serve the needs of Chula Vista citizens~~Mayor, City Council, and City Manager annually to ~~include summaries of recommendation for development of policies, procedures and legislation deemed to be necessary.~~

~~C.~~

B. It is the intent of the City Council to create healthy, enlightened attitudes, policies and practices by establishing this Commission as an official body, not ~~primarily~~ as an enforcement or audit agency, but as a commission which will conduct careful surveys, advise intelligently, and use the tools of education and motivation to the realization of the objectives stated herein, which are the fulfillment of democracy's promises and realization of constitutional guarantees.

### **2.36.030 Functions and duties.**

In cooperation with other relevant boards and commissions and the Chief's Community Advisory Board, the Human Relations Commission shall perform the following duties and functions:

- A. Foster mutual understanding, respect and good will among all ~~racial, religious, national, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, sex and disabled~~ groups identified in 2.36.020 (A).
- A.B. The first duty of the Commission shall be to assist the City by completing all required steps, to become a Certified Welcoming City.
- B.C. Enlist the cooperation of the various ~~racial, religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, age, sex and disabled~~ groups, fraternal and benevolent associations and other groups in Chula Vista in programs and campaigns devoted to eliminating group prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination;
- C.D. Study the problems in the event of ~~prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination~~civil unrest and ~~disorder occasioned thereby in all or any fields of human relationship~~examine the causes;

~~D.E.~~ Study, review, analyze and report to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager the studies of state and federal agencies, and legislative enactments of state and federal governments, including but not limited to the several civil rights acts of the United States government and the state;

~~E.~~

F. Work together with City, state and federal agencies in developing programs and events showing the contributions of the various ~~racial, religious, ethnic, age, sex and disabled~~ groups to the culture and traditions of the City, state and nation;

~~F.~~

G. Promote the establishment of local community organizations in ~~such neighborhoods as it may be necessary~~ building and desirable to carry out programs to lessen tensions or improve group relations in the strengthening relationships with community groups and nonprofits;

~~H. G.~~ Work with ~~the several relevant~~ boards and commissions ~~and departments of the City toward the improvement of, including the Chief's Community Advisory Board, as needed to explore ways to improve~~ municipal services and community relations, ~~including assistance in the development of housing programs for low and moderate income families and individuals, the full range of programs providing assistance to senior citizens and disabled persons, and actions to eliminate age and sex discrimination;~~

~~H.~~ Initiate and investigate complaints and initiate its own investigation, after consultation with the City Manager, relative to the actions of City officials or City agencies, except that instances of discrimination within the jurisdiction of any federal or state commission or agency shall be referred to such commission or agency; scope of the commission's purpose as stated in 2.36.020(A);

~~I.~~ Hold hearings and take testimony of any person under oath or otherwise, relating to any matter under investigation or in question before the Commission;

~~I. J.~~ Advise the City Council and the City Manager of policies and programs of a formal and informal nature that will aid in eliminating all types of discrimination based on race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age gender, sexual orientation, disability, medical condition, place of birth, citizenship/immigration status, marital status, or sex military service, and secure the furnishing of equal services to all residents and maintain the quality of opportunity for employment and advancement in the City government;

~~K.~~ Consider Chula Vista public transportation services, including, but not limited to, route structures; fares; vehicles; interface with all other forms of transit; and bench, bus stop and bus shelter locations;

~~L.~~ Assess Chula Vista public transportation services from the standpoint of Chula Vista residents and keep the City Council informed of the adequacy of service;

~~M.~~ Consider and recommend to the City Council the levels of public transportation services in Chula Vista;

~~N.~~

The Commission shall be advisory in its function, and shall have no police or enforcement powers. It shall issue no reports or recommendations except through the City Council and the City Manager.

## **2.36.040      Membership.**

A. The Human Relations Commission shall consist of ~~seven~~eleven members, to be appointed in accordance with Article VI of the City Charter, Chapter 2.25 CVMC, and this chapter.

B. The members shall be: (i) representative of the ~~total social spectrum~~diversity of the City;; (ii) specifically chosen to reflect the interests and ~~desires~~concern with protection of civil liberties of all people which make up the ~~various racial, religious, ethnic, socioeconomic, age~~City's residents; (iii) committed to fostering better human relations in the City of Chula Vista; and ~~disabled groups, as well as a member or members having a close association~~(iv) associated with the business and/or civic activities of the City.

**2.36.050 Funding.**

In the event that private funds or funds from other governmental agencies are made available for special projects, surveys, educational programs or general program support, the City Manager is authorized, upon recommendation of the Commission and approval of the Council, to enter into appropriate contracts for the utilization of such funds in furtherance of the purposes and intent of, and the duties and functions of, the Commission.