

RESOLUTION NO. 40-1988

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE ABILENE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE BY THE CITY COUNCIL; DESIGNATING THEIR TERMS OF OFFICE; DESCRIBING THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT OFFICERS AND ADOPT REGULATIONS TO GOVERN ITS OWN PROCEEDINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Abilene has a mixture of varied populations different in race, national origin, and religious faith; and

WHEREAS, recognizing better human relations is a goal worthy of the efforts of all citizens and that future progress is desirable as well as the duty and responsibility of the citizens of the City of Abilene; and

WHEREAS, many cities and states have established Human Relations Committees which have been very helpful in achieving better understanding between all groups and peoples; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Abilene has recently had in-depth discussions with representatives of minority groups, and the establishment of a Human Relations Committee was determined to be of importance in furthering community goals;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that a Human Relations Committee should be established; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS:

Section 1: Public Policy Declared. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the City of Abilene that all of its residents and persons subject to its jurisdiction should enjoy equal freedom to pursue their aspirations and that discrimination against any individual or group because of race, creed, color, age, or national origin is detrimental to the peace, common progress, and welfare of the City.

Section 2: Committee Created. There is hereby created the Abilene Human Relations Committee to be composed of fifteen (15) members appointed by the City Council. Each member of the Committee shall be a resident of the City of Abilene. As nearly as is reasonably possible, the membership shall be fairly representative of all the several economic, religious, cultural, ethnic, and racial groups which comprise the population of the City of Abilene. The members of the Abilene Human Relations Committee shall serve without compensation.

Section 3: Term of Office. Each member of the Committee shall be appointed to serve a term of three (3) years, or until a successor is appointed and qualified; provided, however, that the initial Committee five members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; five members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; and five (5) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Each year thereafter, the City Council shall appoint five (5) members to serve for a term of three (3)

years each. In the event any member of the Committee resigns or terminates his/her service for any cause, the City Council shall appoint a qualified successor for the unexpired term.

Section 4: Organization of the Committee. Members of the Abilene Human Relations Committee shall be sworn to uphold the Constitution and the Laws of the United States and the State of Texas and the Charter of the City of Abilene. The City Council shall appoint the initial Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary to serve a term of one (1) year; thereafter, the Committee Members shall elect such officers from among their members to serve one (1) year terms subject to reappointment if the members so elect. The Committee may establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary. The Committee shall adopt Rules of Procedure and Guidelines pertaining to the performance of its duties and the time and frequency of its meetings. Such Rules of Procedure and Guidelines shall be approved by the City Council.

Section 5: Duties and Powers of the Committee. The Abilene Human Relations Committee shall have the following duties:

- a. To advise and consult with the City Council and the City Manager on matters involving allegations of racial, religious, age, or ethnic discrimination.
- b. To recommend to the City Council and the City Manager measures designed to eliminate possible prejudices and discrimination.
- c. To promote and encourage communications between and cooperation among all groups interested in bettering community and human relations.

Adopted this 8 day of September, 1988.

ATTEST:

Patricia Hancock
CITY SECRETARY

Dale E Ferguson
MAYOR

APPROVED:

Claudia Clinton
CITY ATTORNEY

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