

Passed 6/27/11 by a vote of 7-0
ORDINANCE No. 19, 2011

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA, ESTABLISHING
A MEMBERSHIP OF ADVISORY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
WITHIN THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, has determined it to be the public policy of the City of Valparaiso to provide all of its citizens with equal opportunity to achieve their goals and ambitions and in so doing remove barriers to equal opportunity created by both intentional and unintentional actions based upon stereotypes rather than individual merit; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, deems it appropriate to establish an Advisory Human Relations Council to provide council and assistance to the Mayor on matters related to discrimination, including harassment, based on characteristics such as race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana is committed to creating a nondiscriminatory environment by promoting a better understanding of the diversity of the citizens of the City of Valparaiso.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, that Chapter 38 is hereby added to the Valparaiso Code of Ordinances as follows:

Section 38.01 Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish an Advisory Human Relations Council responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Mayor in areas including the following:

- A. Advising the Mayor on the status of human relations in the City and identifying special needs or opportunities to enhance such relations.
- B. Acting as a resource to the Mayor when racially or ethnically motivated incidents occur.
- C. Suggesting convening of events designed to promote a better understanding of minorities and improve the community's acceptance of diversity.
- D. Serving as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and minority groups.

Section 38.02 Membership of Advisory Human Relations Council

The Valparaiso Advisory Human Relations Council shall be composed of seven (7) members all of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor. Members shall serve without compensation and shall provide counsel and assistance to the Mayor on matters related to community human relations.

Section 38.03 Organization of Advisory Human Relations Council

Within thirty (30) days from the date of the adoption of this ordinance, the Mayor shall appoint the initial seven (7) members of the Advisory Human Relations Council. In making appointments to the Advisory Human Relations Council, the Mayor shall consider the individuals sensitivity and awareness to human relations matters affecting the community. The Advisory Human Relations Council membership shall reflect the diversity of community and shall include representation from all major sectors of the community, including business and labor, non-profit organizations, education, government and the faith community.

One of the Mayor's appointments to the Advisory Human Relations Council shall be an employee of the City of Valparaiso. The Mayor may appoint two non-voting members in addition to the seven full members of the Advisory Human Relations Council, which may vote to appoint additional non-voting members. Non-voting members shall be eligible to serve on subcommittees of the Advisory Human Relations Council.

The initial Mayoral appointments to the Advisory Human Relations Council shall be staggered so that three members are appointed to two year terms; three members are appointed to three year terms and one member is appointed to a four year term. Subsequent appointments to the Advisory Human Relations Council shall be for four year terms, except appointments made to fill an unexpired term shall be for the remainder of that term.

The Advisory Human Relations Council shall hold an organizational meeting not later than thirty (30) days after all appointments are made. At that organizational meeting, the Advisory Human Relations Council shall select from its membership a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Mayor may remove any member of the Advisory Human Relations Council for cause, including failure of the member to attend three (3) consecutive Advisory Human Relations Council meetings or an actual conflict of interest.

Section 38.04 Meetings

The Advisory Human Relations Council shall meet with the Mayor within thirty (30) days after its initial organizational meeting to identify human relation matters of concern to the Mayor. The Mayor may assign to the Advisory Human Relations Council tasks and responsibilities related to human relation matters and may seek the counsel and advice of the Advisory Human Relations Council on such matters. Upon the request of the Mayor, the Advisory Human Relations Council may pursue identification of specific barriers to equal opportunity and ways to address such barriers. The Advisory Human Relations Council may be requested to serve as a resource to the Mayor when incidents motivated by bigotry and/or intolerance occur or when there is a need for a liaison between the Mayor's Office and minority groups. The Mayor may also use the Advisory Human Relations Council as a voice on behalf of those members of the community who

believe that they are disadvantaged because of their membership in a historically disadvantaged group and the Advisory Human Relations Council may be requested to identify means of informing the community through communication about the benefits of diversity and the harm of exclusion. In addition, the Advisory Human Relations Council may identify matters for consideration without a request from the Mayor.

The Advisory Human Relations Council shall meet at least quarterly each year and as needed or requested by the Mayor. It shall report its activities, findings and recommendations to the Mayor.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana, by a _____ vote of all members present and voting, this _____ day of May, 2011.

Jon Costas, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sharon E. Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer