

Ordinance No. 373-2022

By Mayor Bibb and Council Members Gray and Howse

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

To supplement the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, by enacting new Sections 162.01, 162.02, and 162.03, relating to the creation of the Commission on Black Women and Girls.

WHEREAS, according to a 2020 Bloomberg CityLab report, the City of Cleveland ranked last in black women’s overall outcomes, last in black women’s educational outcome, and second last in black women’s health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland desires to ensure that every black woman and girl in the City has access to opportunities to achieve, social, health, and economic equality; and

WHEREAS, black women and girls deserve a venue where they may express their concerns, experiences, and challenges and where recommendations may be developed for programs, policies, and legislation that will improve the quality of life for black women and girls, which will also strengthen families and neighborhoods within the City; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, are supplemented by enacting new Sections 162.01, 162.02, and 162.03, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 162

COMMISSION ON BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS

Section 162.01 Commission on Black Women and Girls, Composition, Terms and Compensation

(a) There is hereby created the Commission on Black Women and Girls, consisting of the Mayor, or his or her designee, one (1) member of Council appointed by Council; one (1) a city employee from any office or department, appointed by the Mayor; and twelve (12) persons, appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of Council, which shall include the include the following:

- (1) a representative from the faith community;
- (2) a representative from the business community;

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- (3) a representative from a pre-school, primary, and/or secondary school;
- (4) a representative from a college or university;
- (5) a representative from a grass-roots organization located in the City;
- (6) a representative who is a member of a union;
- (7) a representative from a local hospital who is a doctor of medicine;
- (8) a representative from a social service agency or who is employed as a social worker;
- (9) two college students who attend either community college, technical school or one of the four year Cleveland based universities and live in Cleveland; and
- (10) two Cleveland Metropolitan School District students between 11-17 years old who live in Cleveland, and have permission from their parent or legal guardian.

(b) Other than the Mayor, or his or her designee, the term of the members shall be three (3) years. However, of the original appointments, five (5) members shall serve three (3) years, five (5) members shall serve two (2) years, and four (4) members shall serve one (1) year. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, the Mayor shall appoint a successor to serve the unexpired portion of that term.

(c) The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

Section 162.02 Organization and Procedures

(a) The Mayor shall appoint a chairperson. At the first meeting of the Commission, the chairperson shall appoint from the Commission's membership a vice chairperson and secretary.

(b) The Commission shall meet at least once a month at such time and place as it shall decide. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson at the chairperson's discretion. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any member who is absent from three (3) consecutive duly-called meetings shall be removed from the Commission unless said member files a written appeal with the Commission and a majority thereof votes to retain said member.

(c) The Commission shall adopt such rules and regulations governing its own conduct as are not in conflict with the Charter or these Codified Ordinances.

(d) The Commission may establish one (1) or more advisory subcommittees to help achieve the goals set forth in this Chapter.

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(e) The Commission shall keep minutes of its meetings, a copy of which shall be kept on file in the Mayor's Office. All findings, reports and recommendations of the Commission shall be in writing and shall designate thereon the names of the members concurring therein. A member who does not concur in any such plan, finding, report or recommendation may note thereof the reasons for said member's failure to concur.

Section 162.03 Duties of the Commission

The Commission shall:

(a) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor on matters pertaining to the quality of life for black women and girls;

(b) Conduct research and public hearings, and issue reports on the status of black women and girls in education, economic development, healthcare, justice, and civil rights;

(c) Develop, maintain, and share information and referral service to respond to the needs of black women and girls;

(d) Recommend policies, programs, or legislation to ensure equality rights and opportunities for all women;

(e) Solicit grants or contributions on behalf of the City in furtherance and purposes of the Commission; and

(f) Any other responsibility requested by the Mayor.

Section 2. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SM:nl
4-18-2022
FOR: Mayor Bibb

