

**ORDINANCE**

**NO. 2010- P3-2011**

**AN ORDINANCE To Amend The General Laws of the Township Of Haverford, adding Chapter 183, To Provide For The Creation of The Haverford Township Human Relations Commission, and to Prohibit Discrimination In Housing, Commercial Property, Employment and Public Accommodations Based Upon Race, Color, Religious Creed, Ancestry, Age, Sex, National Origin, Handicap Or Disability, Use Of Guide Or Support Animals Because Of The Blindness, Deafness Or Physical Handicap Of The User Or Because The User Is A Handler Or Trainer Of Support Or Guide Animals, Or Because Of An Individual's Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Or Gender Expression.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford hereby ordains:

**Section 1.** The General Laws of the Township of Haverford shall be amended by the addition of a new Chapter 183, Human Relations Commission, to provide as follows:

**Chapter 183**

**Human Relations Commission**

**§ 183-1- Purpose and Declaration of Policy.**

- A. In order to ensure that all persons, regardless of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities for employment, housing, commercial property, and the use of public accommodations, it is necessary that appropriate legislation be enacted.
- B. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of Haverford Township to foster the employment of all individuals in accordance with their fullest capacities regardless of their race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- C. It is the intention of this chapter that all persons be treated fairly and equally, and it is the express intent of this chapter to guarantee fair and equal treatment under the law to all people of the Township.

- D. This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of Haverford Township for the protection of the public welfare, prosperity, health and peace of the Township, its residents and the Haverford Township community.
- E. No power or duty granted hereunder to the Haverford Human Relations Commission is intended to exceed nor shall it be construed as exceeding those powers and duties granted to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the Act of October 27, 1955, as amended.

**§ 183-2 - Definitions.**

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection. To the extent words and phrases appearing in this chapter are not expressly defined herein, their meaning for purposes of this chapter shall be the same as such words are defined in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and such words, if not therein defined, shall be construed consistently with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

- A. **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** – The duly elected Board of Commissioners of Haverford Township.
- B. **DISCRIMINATION** -- Any discriminatory act(s) taken by any person, employer, entity, employment agency, or labor organization, with respect to or involving a transaction related to employment, public accommodations, commercial property or housing accommodations, on the basis of a person’s race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or a person’s actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- C. **DISCRIMINATORY ACTS** -- All acts or actions defined in the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act as unlawful discriminatory practices as related to employment, public accommodations, commercial property or housing accommodations, when those acts or actions are taken on the basis of a person’s race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of the blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or a person’s actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- D. **EMPLOYER** -- Any person, including the Township, its departments, boards and Commissions, and any other government agency or school district within its jurisdiction, and any person employing four or more persons within the Township, but except as hereinafter provided, does not include religious, fraternal, charitable or sectarian corporations or associations, except such corporations or associations supported, in whole or in part, by governmental appropriations. The term “employer” with respect to discriminatory practices based on race, color, age, sex, national origin, non-job related handicap or

disability, includes religious, fraternal, charitable and sectarian corporations and associations employing four or more persons within the Township. The term "employer" excludes persons acting in a supervisory capacity unless they are an owner of the entity employing the Complainant.

- E. GENDER EXPRESSION – The manner in which a person's gender identity is communicated to or perceived by others, through appearance, behavior, or physical characteristics that may be in accord with, or opposed to, one's physical anatomy, chromosomal sex, or sex at birth, and shall include, but is not limited to, persons who are undergoing or have completed sex change.
- F. GENDER IDENTITY -- The gender(s), or lack thereof, a person self-identifies as, whether or not based on biological fact or sexual orientation.
- G. HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS -- Includes (1) any building, structure, mobile home site or facility, or portion thereof, which is used or occupied or is intended, arranged or designed to be used or occupied as the home residence or sleeping place of one or more individuals, groups or families whether or not living independently of each other; and (2) any vacant land offered for sale, lease or held for the purpose of constructing or locating thereon any such building, structure, mobile home site or facility. The term "Housing Accommodation" shall not include any personal residence offered for accommodation by the owner or lessee thereof or by his or her broker, salesperson, agent or employee.
- H. PERSON -- One or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations, corporations, limited liability entities, legal representatives, trustees in bankruptcy or receivers, including by not limited to any owner, lessor, assignor, builder, manager, broker, salesman, agent, employee, independent contractor, lending institution and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and all political subdivisions, authorities, boards and Commissions thereof.
- I. PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION -- Any accommodation, resort or amusement which is open to, accepts or solicits the patronage of the general public, but shall not include any accommodations which are in their nature distinctly private.
- J. SEXUAL ORIENTATION -- Actual or perceived homosexuality, heterosexuality and/or bisexuality.
- K. TOWNSHIP -- The Township of Haverford, County of Delaware, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**§ 183-3 - Unlawful Practices.**

- A. Discrimination in housing, commercial property transactions, employment or public accommodations is prohibited under this chapter.
- B. Retaliation against any individual because such individual has opposed any practice forbidden by this chapter, or because such individual has made a charge,

testified or assisted in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing under this chapter is prohibited under this chapter.

- C. Aiding, abetting, inciting, compelling or coercing the doing of any act declared by this chapter to be an unlawful practice, or obstructing or preventing any person from complying with the provisions of this chapter is prohibited under this chapter.

**§ 183-4 - Exception.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it shall not be an unlawful practice for a religious corporation or association, not supported in whole or in part by governmental appropriations, to refuse to hire, employ, house or otherwise accommodate an individual on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, nor shall an employer be prevented from enforcing a dress code which is reasonably related to the business or profession being conducted.

**§ 183-5 - Establishment of Human Relations Commission.**

- A. Pursuant to Section 962.1 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, there is hereby established a Human Relations Commission in and for the Township of Haverford (hereinafter referred to as the "Haverford Township Human Relations Commission" or the "Commission").
- B. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members who shall serve overlapping terms of three years each. All members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. Members shall be residents of Haverford Township. No member of the Commission shall hold any office in any political party. Members of the Commission shall serve without salary but may be paid expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, as approved by Board of Commissioners. Paid staff may be hired, as approved by the Board of Commissioners, to assist in the performance of the duties of the Commission.
- C. One of the Commission's members shall be appointed by the members thereof as Chairperson. The Chairperson will be responsible for setting Commission meetings, coordinating with the Township Manager regarding received complaints and answers, and generally ensuring that the duties of the Commission are fulfilled. The Chairperson may delegate responsibility for Commission duties to specific Commissioners or to paid staff, if applicable.
- D. The Commission shall have jurisdiction over Discriminatory Acts committed within the Township of Haverford.
- E. The Board of Commissioners hereby grants to the Commission, with respect to Discriminatory Acts as defined herein, all of the powers necessary to the execution of its duties as set forth below, provided that those powers shall not exceed those exercised by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

- F. The Commission shall be empowered to promulgate such additional procedures to those set forth herein as it determines, subject to Section 183-6(D) below, to be necessary or desirable to implement the intent of this chapter.

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### § 183-6 - Procedures and Expanded Procedures

A. Filing a complaint.

- (1) Any person( s) claiming to be aggrieved by a Discriminatory Act may make, sign and file a verified complaint alleging violations of this chapter, which shall include the following information:
  - (a) The name and address of the aggrieved person(s);
  - (b) The name and address of the person(s) alleged to have committed the prohibited practice;
  - (c) A concise statement of the facts, including pertinent dates, constituting the alleged Discriminatory Act;
  - (d) If applicable, the address and a description of any property which is involved; and
  - (e) Such other information as may be required by the Commission.
- (2) Complaints may be filed in person or by mail at the Township Manager's office. All complaints must be received by the Township Manager's office within 180 days of the alleged Discriminatory Act, or the complaint will not be considered timely.
- (3) The Township Manager shall convey each original complaint received by the Township to the Chairperson of the Haverford Township Human Relations Commission within 10 days of the receipt of such complaint.

B. Notification and answer.

- (1) Within 30 days of its receipt of a complaint, the Haverford Township Human Relations Commission shall determine if it has jurisdiction hereunder to hear the complaint. If the Commission determines that it does not have such jurisdiction, it shall dismiss the complaint and notify the aggrieved party. If the Commission determines it has jurisdiction to hear the complaint, it shall proceed as follows:
  - (a) Send a copy of the complaint to the person(s) charged with a Discriminatory Act (the "Respondent") and to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; and
  - (b) Send a notice to the person(s) aggrieved (the "Complainant"), informing them that the complaint has been received. If the complaint alleges discrimination on a basis proscribed under state or federal law, the notice shall also advise the Complainant of their

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right to cross-file with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and/or Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

- (2) The Respondent shall file with the Township Manager a written verified answer to the complaint within thirty (30) days of Respondent's receipt of the complaint from the Township. It shall be conveyed by the Township Manager to the Chairperson of the Haverford Township Human Relations Commission within 10 days of its receipt by the Township Manager. The Commission shall promptly send a copy of the answer to the Complainant.

C. Mediation.

- (1) After the answer has been received, the Commission shall, within fifteen (15) days, invite the parties to voluntarily participate in the mediation of their dispute. The parties shall respond to the invitation to mediate within fifteen (15) days of being invited to mediate. Mediation shall be conducted in accordance with procedures promulgated by the Commission.
- (2) If mediation is elected by the parties, the parties may jointly select a mediator, in which case they shall be jointly responsible for all financial costs and expenses associated with mediation. If the parties do not jointly select a mediator, pursuant to procedures promulgated by the Commission, the Chairperson of the Commission shall select a mediator, who may be a member of the Commission, a volunteer from the community, or a contracted mediation service. The Commission shall use cost-free volunteer mediators only, unless funds are approved for contracted mediation services by the Board of Commissioners, or are obtained from an outside funding source.
- (3) The parties shall notify the Commission as to whether the mediation successfully resolved the complaint. Mediation proceedings shall otherwise be confidential. Neither the results thereof nor any record made in connection therewith shall be made public unless agreed to in writing by both parties to the dispute.
- (4) Dismissal of the Complaint Following Mediation.
  - a. If the mediation has successfully resolved the complaint, the Commission shall promptly notify the parties that it has dismissed the complaint.
  - b. If the mediation has not successfully resolved the complaint, and if the complaint alleges only a violation(s) proscribed under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the Commission shall notify the parties that the complaint has been dismissed, but that the

Complainant has the right to pursue the complaint before the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

- c. Provided the Commission has not elected under Section D below to use expanded procedures, the Commission shall, following unsuccessful mediation of a complaint which does not allege a violation under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, promptly notify the parties that it has dismissed the complaint. This notice shall also indicate that the Complainant has a right to pursue the matter in court for any violations of this chapter, and shall have available rights and remedies at law and in equity, including those set forth in § 183-6 (D)(10) hereafter.

D. Expanded Procedures. If mediation was not successful in resolving the complaint, and the Commission, with the approval of the Board of Commissioners, has adopted expanded procedures, the Commission shall not dismiss the complaint but shall instead undertake the following procedures.

- (1) Investigation. The Commission shall, in a timely fashion, investigate the allegations of a Discriminatory Act set forth in the complaint by designating an investigator, who may be a member of the Commission. The Commission may, in the conduct of such investigation and upon request of the investigator, issue subpoenas to any person charged with a Discriminatory Act, commanding such person to furnish information, records or other documents, as necessary to assist in the Commission's investigation.
- (2) Finding of No Cause. If it shall be determined after the Commission's investigation that there is no basis for the allegations of the complaint, the Commission shall cause to be issued and served upon the parties written notice of such determination and dismissal of the complaint. This notice shall inform the person aggrieved that he/she has the right to pursue the matter in court.
- (3) Conciliation. If the Commission, after investigation, determines that probable cause exists for the allegations of the complaint, the Commission shall immediately endeavor to eliminate the Discriminatory Act complained of by persuasion, conference and conciliation. If it determines that conciliation may be a useful approach, the Commission shall designate one of its members as a conciliator, who shall undertake conciliation following procedures promulgated by the Commission.
- (4) Public Hearing
  - (a) If the Commission finds it is not possible to eliminate the Discriminatory Act by persuasion, conference and conciliation, the Commission, in its discretion, shall cause to be issued and served a

written notice scheduling a hearing before the Commission at a time and place to be specified in such notice.

- (b) The Commission may designate one or more of its members to preside at such a hearing or it may, at its election, conduct such hearing en banc. Any Commission member who acted as an investigator, mediator or conciliator shall not participate in such hearing except as a witness to present the results of the investigation.
  - (c) At the public hearing, both the Complainant and the Respondent shall be given the opportunity to appear, with or without counsel, to provide testimony and submit evidence. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but irrelevant or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded by the Commission in its discretion. In addition, both the Complainant and the Respondent may introduce the testimony of additional witnesses and may submit documentary evidence.
  - (d) At the public hearing, the Commission shall be represented by the Township Solicitor. A court reporter shall make a formal record of the proceedings.
- (5) Findings and Award. If upon all the evidence at the hearing the Commission shall find that a Respondent has engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful Discriminatory Act as defined in this chapter, the Commission shall state its findings of fact and shall issue and cause to be served on such Respondent an order requiring such Respondent to cease and desist from such unlawful Discriminatory Act and to take such affirmative action, including, but not limited to: reimbursement of certifiable travel expenses in matters involving the complaint, compensation for loss of work in matters involving the complaint, hiring, reinstatement or upgrading of employees, with or without back pay, admission or restoration to membership in any respondent labor organization, the making of reasonable accommodations, or selling or leasing specified housing accommodations or commercial property upon such equal terms and conditions and with such equal facilities, services and privileges or lending money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of housing accommodations or commercial property, upon such equal terms and conditions to any person discriminated against or all persons, and any other verifiable, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses caused by such unlawful discriminatory practice. Back pay liability shall not accrue from a date more than three years prior to the filing of a complaint charging violations of this chapter.



- (6) Civil Penalties. The Commission's order may also assess a civil penalty against the Respondent in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (7) Attorney's fees. If, upon all the evidence at the hearing the Commission finds that a Respondent has engaged in or is engaging in any unlawful Discriminatory Act as defined in this chapter, the Commission may award attorney fees and costs to prevailing Complainants. If, upon all the evidence at the hearing the Commission finds that a Respondent has not engaged in or is not engaging in any unlawful Discriminatory Act as defined in this chapter, the Commission may award attorney fees and costs to a prevailing Respondent if the Respondent proves that the complaint was brought in bad faith.
- (8) Finding of No Discrimination. If upon all the evidence the Commission shall find that a Respondent has not engaged in any unlawful Discriminatory Act, the Commission shall state its findings of fact and shall issue and cause to be served on the parties an order dismissing the complaint as to such Respondent.
- (9) Appeal. Any order of the Commission may be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County within 30 days of its date as provided by law.
- (10) Enforcement. When the Commission has heard and decided any complaint brought before it, enforcement of its order shall be initiated by the filing of a petition in court, together with a transcript of the record of the hearing before the Commission, and issuance and service of a copy of said petition as in proceedings in equity.

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**§ 183-7 - Private Right of Action.**

Having exhausted the administrative remedies set forth herein, nothing in this chapter shall limit the right of an aggrieved person to pursue any other rights or causes of action at law or in equity to which such person may be entitled.

**Section 2.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to affect any suit or proceedings in any Court, any rights acquired or liability incurred, any permit issued, or any cause or causes of action existing under the General Law of the Township of Haverford prior to the adoption of this amendment.

**Section 3.** The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part, or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of this court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts or provisions of this ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the

intent of the Board that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part, or provision had not been included herein.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval date as required by law.

Approved by the Board this        day of                               , 2010.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF HAVERFORD

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Wechsler, President

ATTEST:

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Lawrence Gentile, Secretary