

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: GDS 24

ISSUE CATEGORY: Government Department & Services

SOURCE: City Council

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS: §7-1004 ([Human Rights Dept.] Duties)

Letter dated December 2, 2010

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Allow Human Rights Department to also investigate complaints of discrimination based on religion, height, weight, familial status, marital status, or any status prohibited by the federal or state law and remove language authorizing investigation of complaints based on creed and handicap. Allow department to cooperate with other enforcement agencies in resolution of complaints when requested or there is concurrent jurisdiction.

Sec. 7-1004. Duties.

Subject to policies established by the commission, the department shall:

1. Investigate complaints of unlawful discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color, ~~national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, height, weight, familial status, marital status, or any status prohibited by the laws of the State of Michigan or the United States of America~~, in violation of any ordinance or any law within the city's jurisdiction, and secure equal protection of civil rights without discrimination. The city shall implement this section by ordinance. The human rights department may cooperate with other civil rights and enforcement agencies in the resolution of complaints, where cooperation is requested or where jurisdiction is concurrent.

- Deleted: creed,
- Deleted: handicap,
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2. Secure the rights of citizens to service from city government without discrimination; and

3. Endeavor to increase mutual understanding among the residents of the community, to promote good will, and to work cooperatively with other agencies of government, community groups and organizations, and other persons to eliminate discrimination and the results of past discrimination.

RATIONALE: "The current charter language was changed to reflect the protected classes under State law, including, the Elliott-Larson Civil Rights Act and other civil rights statutes, as well as retaining the current charter's reference to sexual orientation. "Disability" as a protected status was inadvertently omitted as a specific category and should be added, although it is encompassed by the catch-all 'or any status prohibited by the laws of the State of Michigan or the United States of America.'" -City Council's Rationale, Letter, dated December 13, 2010.

ANALYSIS:

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: This proposed revision must be read in conjunction with Council's proposed revision to §6-506 (Non-Discrimination).
See GDS 16.