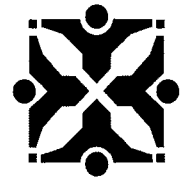


City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



Agenda Item Number: B 133-15

Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: 5/18/2015

Re: Amending Chapter 12 of the City Code Relating to Term Limits for Members of the Human Rights Commission

Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council memo, Resolution/Ordinance

Supporting documentation includes: REP51-15 Human Rights Commission - Term Limits

Executive Summary

An ordinance has been prepared to amend Chapter 12 of the City Code to eliminate term limits for members of the Human Rights Commission.

Discussion

On March 3, 2015, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) approved a motion to recommend to the City Council that term limits be removed from Section 12-16 of the City Code. A subsequent report (REP51-15) was submitted to the City Council at the Council's May 4, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, the City Council approved a motion for staff to prepare an ordinance to eliminate HRC term limits.

As indicated in the report from the HRC, successful service on HRC requires specialized knowledge of human rights ordinances, cooperation and familiarity with local organizations to discourage discrimination, and planning, executing or sponsoring workshops and events to improve human relations and to decrease tensions in the city. One member of the HRC serves as a member on the Citizens Police Review Board. As with all boards and commissions, attendance policies would remain in effect and the Council could choose not to re-appointment HRC members when that member's term is expired.

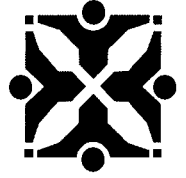
Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Not applicable.

Long-Term Impact: Not applicable.

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Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impact: Not Applicable


Comprehensive Plan Impact: Not Applicable

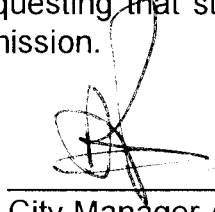
Suggested Council Action

Passage of the ordinance.

Legislative History

REP51-15 Human Rights Commission - Term Limits was presented to the City Council at the May 4, 2015 meeting and Council approved a motion requesting that staff prepare legislation to eliminate term limits for members of the Human Rights Commission.



Department Approved

City Manager Approved

Introduced by _____

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

Ordinance No. _____

Council Bill No. B 133-15

AN ORDINANCE

amending Chapter 12 of the City Code as it relates to term limits for Human Rights Commission members; and fixing the time when this ordinance shall become effective.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, Missouri, is hereby amended as follows:

Material to be deleted in ~~strikeout~~; material to be added underlined.

Sec. 12-16. Commission created; membership; qualification; terms; vacancies.

There is hereby established a commission on human rights. The commission shall consist of seven (7) members. All members shall be residents of the city. The members shall have demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights and a belief in the principles of equal opportunity embodied in this chapter. The council shall endeavor to appoint individuals to the commission from various protected categories that have historically been discriminated against. Of the seven (7) members first appointed, three (3) shall be appointed for one (1) year, two (2) shall be appointed for two (2) years and two (2) shall be appointed for three (3) years. Thereafter, appointment shall be for terms of three (3) years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for unexpired terms only. ~~No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full three-year terms.~~

...

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

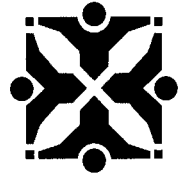
ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

REP51-15 Human Rights Commission - Term Limits



City of Columbia, Missouri

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 23, 2015

Re: Human Rights Commission Members – Term Limits

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

At the March 3rd meeting of the Human Rights Commission, commission members discussed the member term limits in the ordinances for the Human Rights Commission. We believe that the term limits should be eliminated from the ordinances, or otherwise extended, and respectfully request that City Council consider the issue. We provide the following suggestions in support.

The Human Rights Commission was created in 1974. Originally, it was a nine (9) member commission to serve three (3) year terms. There was no limit in the ordinance as to how many terms a member could serve. In 1991, the Commission was significantly remodeled (after a Missouri Supreme Court opinion removed some of its powers for administrative hearings); in the revised ordinance, the membership was reduced to seven (7) members to serve three (3) year terms and limited persons to serve no more than two (2) terms. This two (2) term limit is still in place today in City Ordinance 12-16. Some commissions, such as the Disabilities Commission, have no term limits.

Specialized knowledge of Chapter 12 of city code

- Helpful in handling and investigation of discrimination complaints (which may take months or years)
- Helpful in evaluating and coordinating human rights enhancement projects

Cooperating with other organizations to discourage discrimination

- Helpful for local businesses and service agencies that work with the commission to know members and be familiar with the work of the commission; this familiarity is developed over time

CPRB Liaison

- City Ordinances require that at least one member of the Columbia Human Rights Commission also serve as a member of the CPRB (CPRB is requesting a similar change concerning term limits)

Annual events

- Helpful in planning and executing events consistent w/ chapter 12 purposes

City council still has opportunity to not renew members after 3 year term

- Once a member is appointed, they can still be re-evaluated by council for membership at the expiration of their 3 year term; in addition, all regular attendance rules would apply to maintain appointment

Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue.

Sincerely,

Commission on Human Rights

City of Columbia