

ARTICLE XXX. - COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Article XXX, §§ 2-264—2-270, is derived from Ord. No. 71-11, §§ 1—7, enacted Jan. 19, 1971, which ordinance was codified pursuant to § 9 thereof. Ord. No. 99-35, § 1, adopted April 13, 1999, changed the title of article XXX from "Commission on the Status of Women" to "Commission for Women."

Cross reference— Discrimination, Ch. 11A.

Sec. 2-264. - Short title.

This article enacted under and pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of Government for Miami-Dade County, Florida, shall be known and may be cited as the "Miami-Dade County Commission for Women Ordinance".

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 1, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 99-35, § 2, 4-13-99)

Sec. 2-265. - Commission for women.

The Miami-Dade County Commission for Women ("the Commission") is hereby created and established. The Commission shall consist of twenty-six (26) members. The Office of the Chairperson of the County Commission shall provide appropriate support for the Commission for Women. The Chairperson of the County Commission shall have the power to appoint employ, remove and supervise such assistants, employees, and personnel as deemed necessary to provide appropriate support to the Commission for Women, and such assistants, employees, and personnel, including an executive director, collectively herein referred to as the Office of Community Advocacy, shall serve at the will of the Chairperson of the County Commission.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 2, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 99-35, § 3, 4-13-99; Ord. No. 10-45, § 3, 7-8-10; Ord. No. 14-111, § 1, 11-5-14)

Sec. 2-266. - Qualifications of members.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2-11.38 of the Code of Miami-Dade County as may be amended, members of the Commission shall be permanent residents and electors of Miami-Dade County. Members, while serving, shall not become candidates for election to any public office. In order to secure representative membership upon the Commission, each of the thirteen (13) County Commissioners shall appoint two (2) members to the Commission.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 3, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 14-111, § 2, 11-5-14)

Annotation— CAO 78-19.

Sec. 2-267. - Terms of office.

All appointments shall be made for a term of four (4) years. No member may serve more than eight (8) consecutive years. This section shall apply to all board members, except that current board members shall be allowed to complete their current terms. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the Commission shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office. A member may be removed without cause only by three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the County Commission.

However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Code of Miami-Dade County, a member shall be automatically removed if, in a given County fiscal year: the member is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without an acceptable excuse or the member is absent from three (3) of the board's meetings without an acceptable excuse. An 'acceptable excuse' is defined as an absence for medical reasons, business reasons, personal reasons, or any other reason which the Commission for Women, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership, deems appropriate. If a member is absent with an acceptable excuse from three (3) or more meetings, the Commission for Women at its discretion may vote to remove the member from the Commission, and the Commission's vote shall be final.

A member shall be considered absent from a meeting if the member is not physically present for at least seventy-five (75) percent of the meeting's duration. A member shall also be considered absent from a meeting if the member refrains from voting on any matter for which voting is conducted at the meeting, unless the member is prevented from voting by a conflict of interest. The provisions of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, as may be amended, are applicable to this board.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 4, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 73-20, § 1, 3-8-73; Ord. No. 14-111, § 3, 11-5-14; Ord. No. 19-48, § 9, 6-4-19)

Sec. 2-268. - Organization of the commission.

The members of the Commission shall elect such officers other than a Chairman as may be deemed necessary or desirable, who shall serve one-year terms at the will of the Commission. No member shall remain in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive years. After one (1) year of not holding the office, a member may be elected to the same office that was previously held for up to two (2) consecutive years. Officer elections shall take place each November, with newly elected officers installed the following January.

A majority of members duly appointed to the Commission shall constitute a quorum necessary to hold a meeting and take any action. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, upon approval by the County

Commission. The Chairman may call meetings of the Commission, and meetings may be called by written notice signed by fourteen (14) members and the Commission at any meeting may fix and call a meeting on a future date. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Commission. All meetings shall be public.

The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners ("Clerk of the Board") shall maintain a current roster of the Commission for Women's members and maintain minutes of the Commission's meetings.

The Office of Community Advocacy's duties shall include working with the Clerk of the Board to ensure the Commission's membership roster is current and posting minutes from the Commission's meetings online. In addition, the executive director of the Office of Community Advocacy shall provide a report on the Commission every twelve months to the Board of County Commissioners.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 5, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 71-51, § 1, 6-15-71; Ord. No. 14-111, § 4, 11-5-14)

Editor's note— Ord. No. 71-51, § 1, amended § 5 of Ord. No. 70-11, codified as § 2-268, by substituting "fourteen (14)" in lieu of "seventeen (17)".

Sec. 2-269. - Duties and powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the following duties, functions, powers and responsibilities:

- (a) To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission, the County administration, the community, and all agencies and persons in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women, including but not limited to discrimination against women, employment of women, education of women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attitudes towards women in the community, and to make periodic reports and recommendations to these bodies in respect to such matters.
- (b) To make a continuing study of all existing County institutions, facilities and services, and programs dealing with women or affecting women, and consider the future needs of this metropolitan area in respect to such institutions, facilities, services and programs.
- (c) To serve as liaison between the County Commission and the County administration, and consult with representatives of said bodies from time to time as requested and necessary in order to carry out the Commission's duties and functions.
- (d) To make studies and have studies made of the problems of discrimination against women employees, increasing the availability of part-time employment for women, establishment of day care centers in the community, and attributable changes towards women in the community, and to formulate and recommend plans and programs for the coordination of the activities of all governmental entities and nongovernmental agencies dealing with these problems.
- (e) It is the express purpose of this Commission to serve as a medium for responsible

persons to utilize and consult with in attempting to understand and solve the many complex problems involved with dealing with the status of women, and to make findings and recommendations to the County Commission and the County administration regarding such matters as are presented to the Commission.

- (f) To establish the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women Trust Fund (hereinafter referred to as "Trust Fund") in which will be placed all donations, contributions and funds received by the Commission for Women. The funds placed into the Trust Fund shall be used only to fund conferences, projects and special events which further the purposes of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women.
- (g) To report at least annually to the County Commission on the Commission for Women's accomplishments and priorities.
- (h) To analyze Gender Equity Data provided annually by the Commission Auditor, pursuant to Section 2-477 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, regarding the economic development, health and safety, and education of women in Miami-Dade County and to report the Commission for Women's analysis and recommendations based on Gender Equity Data annually to the County Mayor and to the County Commission, and to make the Commission for Women's report available to the public.
- (i) To perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by resolution of the County Commission.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 6, 1-19-71; Ord. No. 92-85, § 1, 7-21-92; Ord. No. 92-121, § 1, 10-13-92; Ord. No. 99-35, § 4, 4-13-99; Ord. No. 14-111, § 5, 11-5-14; Ord. No. 15-87, § 3, 9-1-15)

Annotations— CAO's 78-16, 82-2.

Sec. 2-270. - Limitation of powers.

The powers and jurisdiction of the Commission shall be purely advisory, voluntary, and persuasive. The Commission shall not have any power or authority to subpoena or compel the attendance of witnesses. The Commission shall have no power to appoint County officers or employees or to make policy decisions, or to manage, control or administer institutions or programs relating to the status of women in Miami-Dade County.

(Ord. No. 71-11, § 7, 1-19-71)