



AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY ADDING DIVISION 11, SECTIONS 2-206 THROUGH 2-210, CREATING A NEW COMMISSION ENTITLED “SPECIAL COMMISSION ON EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL CONCILIATION” AND DESCRIBING ITS PURPOSE, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ORGANIZATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Division 11 which shall read as follows:

“DIVISION 11. – SPECIAL COMMISSION ON EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND RACIAL CONCILIATION.”

Section 2. Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-206 therein which shall read as follows:

“Sec. 2-206. - Establishment.

There is hereby established a commission for equity, inclusion, and racial conciliation issues to be known as the “City of Charleston Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation.”

Section 3. Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-207 therein which shall read as follows

“Sec. 2-207. - Purpose.

The purpose of the City of Charleston Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation is to review City policies, practices, budget and other matters that it determines to be appropriate related to addressing racism and racial inequities and to make recommendations to City Council on ways to promote racial justice and racial equity in the City.”

Section 4. Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-208 therein which shall read as follows:

“Sec. 2-208. – Duties and Responsibilities.

The City of Charleston Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation shall have the following responsibilities:

- (a) To make recommendations and advise the Mayor and City Council on the development of a racial equity framework that will serve as a tool and set of processes to analyze, influence, and improve decision-making that supports racial equity within the City as an organization and through the services provided;
- (b) Assess the City organization’s current infrastructure and recommend changes that will create racial equity teams throughout the organization;
- (c) Recommend a method for measuring success of programmatic and policy changes and a method for developing baselines, setting goals, and measuring progress towards goals;
- (d) Review Slavery Apology Resolution and provide recommendations regarding implementation of the recommendations included in the Apology;
- (e) Review Racial Bias Audit and recommendations;
- (f) Review and assess city procurement and recruitment policies and recommend changes;
- (g) Review and address historical markers, memorials, and monuments;
- (h) Work with community partners including educational institutions, civil rights organizations, and business organizations such as One Region Charleston, local Chambers of Commerce, Charleston Regional Development Alliance, and Lowcountry Local First.
- (i) Consider any other issue that the Special Commission believes is necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and,
- (j) Provide an Action Plan to the Mayor within 90 days of the Ordinance’s ratification. The Action Plan will be reviewed by the Mayor in consultation with City Council and further action will be taken by City Council as needed in furtherance of the welfare of the city.”

Section 5. Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-209 therein which shall read as follows:

“Sec. 2-209. - Organization.

The organization of the City of Charleston Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation shall be:

- (a) Membership. The Mayor shall appoint five (5) city councilmembers and six (6) members of the community to the Special Commission.
- (b) The Special Commission shall be supported by the City’s Manager of Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation and other City staff as needed.
- (c) The Special Commission will have the authority to designate subcommittees on matters including but not limited to housing, health care, criminal justice, small business and economic development, and communications.
- (d) For purpose of Special Commission action, a quorum of the commission shall consist of six (6) members of the commission in attendance.
- (e) The Special Commission shall make and alter rules governing its organization and procedures that are not inconsistent with any city ordinance or Roberts Rules of Order.
- (f) The Special Commission shall keep a written record of its proceedings and file the record with the Clerk or Council after the completion of any meeting.”

Section 6.

Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-210 therein which shall read as follows:

“Sec. 2-210. - Intragovernmental relations.

The Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation shall have the full cooperation of all departments of the city in the performance of its duties, and all departments shall supply the commission with all information and reports requested in order that the goals of this commission may be realized.”

Section 7.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon ratification.

Ratified in City Council Chambers this _____
Day of _____, 2020, in the ___th year of
the Independence of the United States of America.

John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

(ATTEST) _____
Vanessa Turner Maybank
Clerk of Court