

HUMAN RIGHTS BOARD

Purpose: To encourage equality of treatment and prevent discrimination, against any racial, religious, ethnic, or other minority group or its members.

To receive, initiate and investigate complaints alleging any discriminatory practice; seek to conciliate; hold hearings in order to determine and adjudicate the facts; issue binding orders; act upon complaints alleging violations of the Human Rights Act; enforce all final orders by application to the circuit court; approve or disapprove plans to eliminate or reduce imbalance with respect to discriminatory classifications; and to exercise its quasi-judicial powers as specified in the Human Rights Act.

Created by: Broward County Ordinance #78-29, enacted June 21, 1978, called the Broward County Human Rights Ordinance.

The Broward County Human Rights Act, Chapter 83-380, Laws of Florida, enacted June 9, 1983, was approved by a majority of the voters at the general election held November 6, 1984; providing for a Human Rights Board with the same criteria for membership as provided in the Human Rights Ordinance, but with the addition of subpoena power. The Human Rights Act was further derived from Chapter 91-359 and Chapter 93-386, Laws of Florida.

Ordinance #78-29 was repealed by the Board of County Commissioners on February 21, 1985.

Amended by Ordinance #95-9, enacted February 14, 1995; prescribing duties of the board.

Amended by Ordinance #95-26, enacted June 13, 1995, relating to the composition of the board.

Amended by Ordinance #2001-20, enacted June 12, 2001, reducing the membership from twenty-one to eighteen; changing the composition, terms and authority; categorizing the board's power into general, quasi-judicial, and advisory.

Amended by Ordinance 2008-06, enacted February 12, 2008, amending the Broward County Human Rights Act; as well as amending the Human Rights Board, requiring that the number of members that constitute a quorum, issues concerning absences, and other general information governing Broward County Boards, unless otherwise indicated, shall conform to Section 1-233 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances.

Amended by Ordinance #2009-53, enacted August 11, 2009; redirecting the focus of the quasi-judicial powers of the Human Rights Board's powers towards persons whose rights are protected only by the Human Rights Act; providing that individuals who have dual-filed complaints with the Housing and Urban Development and the County's Civil Rights Division shall be advised of alternate legal remedies when the Division has determined there is no reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory act has occurred; providing that individuals who have dual-filed charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Division shall be advised of alternate legal remedies, whether the Division has determined there is reasonable cause to believe that a discriminatory act has occurred; and clarifying certain language where necessary.

Membership: Eighteen (18) members.

Each Broward County Commissioner shall appoint two (2) members, one (1) of which must be chosen by draw as follows:

- 1) An attorney who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar;
- 2) A member of the business community;
- 3) A representative of the real estate industry;
- 4) A member of a non-profit civil rights organization;
- 5) A member who is sixty (60) years of age or older;
- 6) A small business owner;
- 7) A representative of municipal government;
- 8) A representative of an employee organization; and
- 9) A representative of the banking industry.

The County Commission shall consider and should balance its appointments so the Human Rights Board is representative of the county's population and reflective of the racial, ethnic, and religious make-up of Broward County, in addition to geographic and economic considerations.

Terms: Section 1-233 of Chapter 1, Article XII, Broward County Code of Ordinances, as may be amended from time to time.

Quorum: A majority of the total appointed board members.

Attorney: Annika Ashton, Assistant County Attorney, 954-357-7600

Coordinator: Earlene Striggles Horne, Director
Office of Equal Opportunity
Civil Rights Division
954-357-7800

Assistant: Barbara Ann McGovern, Assistant to Director
954-357-6516

Meetings: Quarterly, second Monday at 1:00 p.m.
February, April, July, October
Broward Governmental Center, Room 302

Internet: www.broward.org/civilrights

Financial Disclosure not required.

Updated 10/09