

CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, ORDINANCE NO. 2658

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON, BY ADDING AN ARTICLE VII, COMMUNITY RELATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bradenton finds that in the City of Bradenton, with its population consisting of people of both sexes, married and unmarried, physically and mentally impaired and people of every race, age, color, creed, national origin, and ancestry, of different education, social and economic status, the existence of people in groups prejudiced against each other and antagonistic to each other because of these differences is of great danger to the health, morals, safety and welfare of the City and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bradenton finds that a community relations board is necessary and desirable to encourage and foster mutual understanding, assist the efforts of citizens and groups striving to eliminate prejudice, privation, intolerance, bigotry, and disorder occasioned thereby, and give effect to the guarantee of the equal rights for all insured by the constitution and laws of the State of Florida and of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Bradenton, Florida, in session duly assembled that Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bradenton is hereby amended, as follows:

Section 1. Article VII is hereby added to Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bradenton, to read as follows:

"Article VII. Community Relations.

DIVISION 1. Generally.

Section 2-359 -- 2-370. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Section 2-371. Designated Office. The Community Development Department, of the City of Bradenton, is hereby designated as the office of community relations, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 46 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bradenton. The office of community relations, as further set forth in Chapter 46, shall be the agency of the City charged with the duties of implementing and enforcing the terms of Articles I and II of Chapter 46.

Section 2-372 -- 2-380. Reserved.

DIVISION 3. COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD.

Section 2-381. Creation.

(1) The Community Relations Board is hereby created and shall be composed of 5 citizens of the City, appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council. At least one representative from each of the following fields must be appointed:

- (a) real estate sales;
- (b) property leasing;
- (c) mortgage financing; and
- (d) law enforcement.

The importance of minority representation on the Board shall be considered in making appointments, so that the Board generally reflects the gender and ethnic composition of the community as a whole.

(2) The terms of office of the members shall be for four years, except that, in making the initial appointments, two members shall be appointed for terms of three years, two members for terms of two years, and one member for a term of one year. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments, and, if occurring during a term, shall be filled for the unexpired term. Each member shall hold office until a successor has been appointed and has qualified. Each member shall serve without compensation. Members of the community relations board shall appoint a chairperson and vice chairperson, and the board may promulgate rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and affairs.

(3) The City Council may remove a member of the community relations board for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office only after a hearing and only if the member has been given a copy of the charges at least ten days prior to the hearing and has had an opportunity to be heard in person or by Council.

(4) A member of the community relations board is entitled to the necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the discharge of his or her duties.

(5) A majority of the members of the community relations board constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers of the board and for all other purposes. Action may be taken by the board upon a vote of a majority of the members present.
Section 2-382. Chairperson.

(1) The chairperson of the community relations boards serves for a term of two years and has the following duties:

(a) Call board meetings and set the agenda for the meeting;

(b) Preside at board meetings;

(c) Appoint one or more panels of not less than three board members to exercise board powers, as provided in Section 2-385 and as further provided in Article I and II of Chapter 46;

(d) Appoint and define the role of such committees as are necessary or expedient to advise the board or its director;

(e) Perform any other functions as assigned by the board.

(2) The vice chairperson serves for a term of two years, the term to run concurrently with that of the chairperson. The vice chairperson performs the duties of the chairperson in the chairperson's absence and performs other such duties as the chairperson may assign.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of chairperson, the vice chairperson shall become the chairperson for the unexpired term of the chairperson. If a vacancy occurs in the office of vice chairperson, the board shall select another member to fill the unexpired term of the vice chairperson.

Section 2-383. Meetings of the Community Relations Board.

(1) The community relations board shall hold at least four meetings each year and may meet more frequently. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to all board members and all parties scheduled to be heard, and shall be

made public. The chairperson may call an unscheduled meeting, and meetings may also be called by written notice signed by three members of the board. All meetings shall be public. The Mayor shall provide such staff as may reasonably be required in his discretion to assist the board in the performance of its duties. The Mayor shall provide a regular meeting place for the board.

(2) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of board business. A majority of the members of a panel or committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business assigned to a panel or committee. In the presence of a quorum, board, panel or committee business shall be conducted by majority vote.

Section 2-384. Powers and Duties of the Community Relations Board.

The powers and duties of the community relations board shall be to:

(1) Receive, investigate and pass upon complaints and to cause, through the office of community relations, investigations of discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or handicap, in the sale or rental of a dwelling;

(2) Carry out and effectuate the powers and duties as provided in Articles I and II of Chapter 46 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bradenton, Florida;

(3) Propose reasonable rules and regulations as are necessary to effectuate the policies of this chapter and of Chapter 46 of the Code of Ordinances. Such rules and regulations shall become effective upon approval by the City Council."

Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect on the 8th day of August, 2001.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the membership of the City Council of the City of Bradenton, Florida, present and voting, this 8th day of August, 2001.

ATTEST: CARL CALLAHAN
City Clerk

Carl Callahan
Clerk/Deputy Clerk

CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, BY
AND THROUGH THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON

By: Wayne Poston
Wayne Poston, Mayor

First Reading: July 11, 2001
Second Reading and
Public Hearing: August 8, 2001

APPROVED as to form by Special Counsel:

Samuel S. Munn
Samuel S. Munn

