

**PATTON TOWNSHIP
CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-636

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PATTON AMENDING CHAPTER 143,
ARTICLE II, REGIONAL HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, OF THE CODE OF
PATTON TOWNSHIP**

BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Patton Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 143-13 Establishment of Human Relations Commission is hereby amended as follows:

- A. Utilizing the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and pursuant to Section 962.1 of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, there is hereby established a Regional Human Relations Commission in and for the municipalities who elect to participate in the program as described herein. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members who shall serve overlapping terms of three (3) years each. Members of the Commission shall be appointed by State College Borough. Each municipality that is part of the Commission shall have at least one representative as submitted to the State College Borough Council for appointment to the Commission. If there are more than seven (7) municipalities that are part of the Commission, the appointments will be rotated among the municipalities. Members shall be residents of the participating municipalities. No member of the Commission shall hold any office in any municipality or political party. Members of the Commission shall serve without salary but may be reimbursed expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- C. The Managers of the Municipalities that have enacted the Regional Human Relations Commission Ordinance shall meet to prepare administrative procedures for the implementation of this Ordinance. Such procedures shall be approved by the Managers no later than July 1, 2024, and will become the procedures used by the Commission in adjudicating all complaints brought before the Commission. In no event shall the Commission have any regulatory or other power beyond considering and adjudicating complaints filed with the Commission.
- D. The Commission shall have Jurisdiction to hear complaints brought before it under the terms and provisions of anti-discrimination ordinances of municipalities who have adopted this Ordinance.

SECTION 2: Section 143-14 Procedure is hereby amended as follows:

- B. Place of Filing. Complaints may be filed in person with the Manager or other designated employee of the municipality, or by mailing or electronically submitting such utilizing an official address provided by the municipality.
- D. Format. The Complaint shall contain the following information:
- (2) The name and address of the person(s) alleged to have committed the discriminatory acts, and the address and municipality in which the alleged discriminatory act took place.
- F. Commission Review. The Commission, within thirty (30) days of the filing, shall hold a meeting to review the Complaint and make a preliminary determination as to whether the alleged discriminatory acts are prohibited by the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance in effect in the municipality where the alleged discriminatory act occurred. If the Commission determines that the alleged discriminatory act is not prohibited by the Municipal Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, it shall so notify the Complainant who may then proceed to follow whatever other filings may be applicable, specifically PAHRC and EEOC or, if applicable, the Complainant may appeal the decision of the Commission to the Centre County Court of Common Pleas within thirty (30) days of the decision date.
- H. Answer. Respondent shall file with the Commission a written Verified Answer to the Complaint within thirty (30) days of Respondent's receipt of the Complaint from the Commission and, further, shall send a copy of the answer to the Complainant.
- (1) If the Complainant is satisfied with the resolution of the complaint as stated in the 'Verified Answer' Form from the Respondent. The complainant will sign a 'Satisfactory Resolution' Form stating the complaint is sufficiently resolved and provide this form to the Chair of the Human Relations Commission. The Commission shall forward the signed 'Satisfactory Resolution' Form to the Respondent for signature. Upon receipt of the fully executed 'Satisfactory Resolution' Form the commission provides written notice to both the Respondent and the Complainant that final resolution of the complaint has been achieved and no further process is required.
- I. Mediation
- (3) If the mediation has not successfully resolved the complaint, the Commission shall proceed to investigation.
- J. Investigation. The Commission, in consultation with staff assigned to assist the Commission and the Manager in the municipality where the complaint was filed, shall in a timely fashion designate an investigator to conduct the investigation into the alleged discriminatory practice. Commission may, in the conduct of such investigation and upon review and approval, issue subpoenas to any person or entity

who may be of interest in the investigation, commanding such person or entity to furnish information, records or other documents, as necessary to assist in the Commission's investigation.

- L. Finding of Probable Cause. If the Commission determines that probable cause exists and if an unlawful discriminatory practice may have occurred, it shall establish a date and time for a hearing, providing at least thirty (30) days' notice thereof to Complainant and Respondent.
- N. Appeals. Any decision of the Commission herein may be appealed by either party to the Centre County Court of Common Pleas. All such appeals must be filed within thirty (30) days of the issuance of findings by the Commission. Any appeals under this Ordinance shall be handled in accordance with Pennsylvania Local Agency Law.

SECTION 6: In all other respects Chapter 143 and the Code of Patton Township remain in full force and effect, and are not in any way affected or modified by this amendment.

SECTION 7: This change shall become effective within ninety (90) days from the date of enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED as an ordinance by the Township of Patton this the 27th day of March, 2024.

PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Pamela Robb, Chair

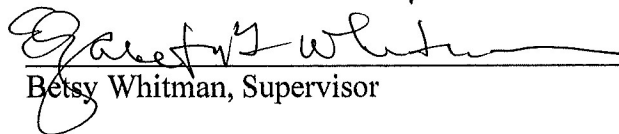


Sultan Magruder, Vice Chair

Elliot Abrams, Supervisor

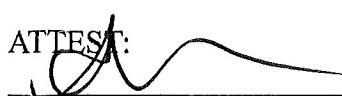


Susan Chyczewski, Supervisor



Betsy Whitman, Supervisor

ATTEST:



Amy K. Farkas, Secretary