

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

2026 - 040

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTERS 2 (ADMINISTRATION) AND 22.2
(HUMAN RELATIONS) MERGING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WELCOMING
AMERICA COMMISSION WITH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSIONERS**

**Adopted by the City Council
of the City of Bloomington
on April 27, 2026**

Published in pamphlet form by the authority of the City Council of the
City of Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois, on April 28, 2026.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MCLEAN)
) ss.
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON)

CERTIFICATE


I, Leslie Smith-Yocum, certify that I am the duly appointed and qualified municipal clerk, custodian of the records for the municipality, and the keeper of the corporate seal of the City of Bloomington, County of McLean, Illinois.

I further certify that the Corporate Authorities of the above stated municipality have passed and approved Ordinance No. 2026 - 040, entitled, an Ordinance Amending City Code Chapters 2 (Administration) and 22.2 (Human Relations) Merging the Powers and Duties of the Welcoming America Commission with the Powers and Duties of the Human Relations Commission and Increasing the Number of Human Relations Commissioners, which provided by its terms that it should be published in pamphlet form.


The pamphlet form of this Ordinance, including the Ordinance and cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of the Ordinance was posted in the municipal building, commencing on the date listed below, and continuing for at least ten days thereafter. Copies of the Ordinance were also available for public inspection upon request in the office of the municipal clerk.

I further certify that the attached Ordinance is a true, correct, and exact copy of Ordinance No. 2026 – 040.

Dated at Bloomington, Illinois, on 04/28/2026



Leslie Smith-Yocum
City Clerk



ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 040

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTERS 2 (ADMINISTRATION) AND 22.2 (HUMAN RELATIONS) MERGING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE WELCOMING AMERICA COMMISSION WITH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington (“City”) is a home rule unit of local government with authority to legislate in matters concerning its local government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, volunteer boards and commissions perform functions essential to the health, welfare, and quality of life of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bloomington considers it to be of great importance that the City be a welcoming community to immigrant and international residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interest of the City to approve this Ordinance and merge the powers and duties of the Welcoming America Commission with those of the Human Relations Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. That the above recitals are incorporated herein by this reference as if specifically stated in full.

SECTION 2. That the Bloomington City Code is hereby amended by deleting the text of Section 2-354 and designating said section as “RESERVED”.

SECTION 3. That the Bloomington City Code Section 22.2-102 is hereby amended by increasing the number of Commissioners serving on said Commission from seven to ten members as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto.

SECTION 4. That the powers and duties formerly associated with the Welcoming America Committee are hereby transferred to the Human Relations Commission and merged with the powers and duties of said Commission as set forth on Exhibit A.

SECTION 5. In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this Ordinance shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to publish this Ordinance in pamphlet form as provided by law.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after approval and publication as required by law.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Home Rule Authority granted to the City of Bloomington by Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970.

PASSED this 27th day of April 2026.

APPROVED this 28th day of April 2026.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Dan Brady, Mayor

ATTEST



Leslie Smith-Yocum, City Clerk



EXHIBIT A

The Bloomington City Code is hereby amended to read as follows: (Deletions are indicated by strikeouts, new language is indicated by underlining).

§ 22.2-102. [Ch. 22.2, Sec. 2] Establishment and guidelines of the Human Relations Commission.

There is hereby established a Commission to be referred to and known as the Bloomington Human Relations Commission:

- A. Organization and members of the Commission. The following designated persons shall be the members of the Human Relations Commission.
 - (1) Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be selected from among the Commissioners by a majority vote of the Commission for a one-year term. The term as Chairperson shall not affect the original appointment term of the Commissioner chosen to serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall receive no salary, but may be compensated for expenses incurred in the performance of the Commission duties. The Chairperson shall supervise the activities and duties of the Human Relations Commission and shall preside over all of its meetings in addition to the powers enumerated below. The Chairperson shall participate in all matters and shall vote on all issues before the Commission. **[Ord. No. 2014-04]**
 - (2) Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall be selected from among the Commissioners by a majority vote of the Commission for a one-year term which shall coincide with the term of the Chairperson. The term as Vice-Chairperson shall not affect the original appointment term of the Commissioner chosen to serve as Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall receive no salary, but may be compensated for expenses incurred in the performance of the Commission duties. The Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson at meetings and functions of the Commission from which the Chairperson is absent. **[Ord. No. 2014-04]**
 - (3) Commissioners. ~~Seven~~ Ten persons, who shall be referred to and known as Human Relations Commissioners, shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council for terms of three years. This term may be extended after the three years for no more than two additional three-year terms. Members of the Commission shall serve no more than three consecutive three-year terms (a total of nine years). Commission members may be reappointed at the discretion of the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. Commissioners shall receive no salary, but may be compensated for expenses incurred in the performance of Commission duties. The Mayor shall make appointments to the Human Relations Commission which reflect a broad diversity of backgrounds within the community in the areas of race, ethnic groups, sex and age. **[Ord. No. 2014-04]**
 - (4) Staff. The following designated persons shall assist the Commission in the execution of its responsibilities:
 - (a) Community Relations Coordinator. The Community Relations Coordinator shall be hired by the Director of Human Resources and shall advise the Commission, serve as a resource person to the Commission, coordinate and develop human relations projects of the Commission and act as a liaison with the City

administration. The Community Relations Coordinator shall make reasonable efforts to attend all meetings and functions of the Commission and shall have voice in all proceedings, but shall not vote on issues before the Commission.

(b) Human Relations Associate. The Human Relations Associate shall be hired by the Director of Human Resources and shall investigate discrimination complaints filed with the Commission, as well as individual instances and patterns of conduct that appear to be in violation of this chapter, and shall assist in the coordination and development of human relations projects of the Commission. The Human Relations Associate shall make reasonable efforts to attend all meetings of the Commission and shall have a voice in complaint related issues, but shall not vote on complaint related issues before the Commission.

(c) Legal representation. The Commission shall be represented by the City's Corporation Counsel Office, or in the case of a conflict of interest, the Commission shall engage the services of a private attorney. **[Ord. No. 1996-8]**

B. Removal. The Chairperson and Commissioners appointed herein may be removed for cause by the City Council. **[Ord. No. 1996-8]**

C. Meetings. The Chairperson of the Human Relations Commission shall call meetings of the Commission on a regular basis, not less than once a month on a schedule to be established and published by the Chairperson as required by law. The Chairperson or any four Commissioners may call additional meetings as may be deemed necessary by giving notice of the time and place of such meetings to all other Commissioners, to the Chairperson, to the news media as required by law and to the Community Relations Coordinator not less than 24 hours prior to such meetings. **[Ord. No. 1996-8]**

D. Duties and authority. It shall be the duty and authority of the Human Relations Commission to:

- (1) Conduct research, publish, and utilize studies in the field of inter-group relations and to develop and implement procedures to educate the community, equalize opportunities, eliminate discrimination and promote good will among all persons;
- (2) Receive and record any complaint whether initiated by the Human Relations Commission or by the filing of a complaint with the Commission, alleging discrimination against any person because of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, familial status or physical or mental disability unrelated to ability in violation of this chapter;
- (3) Seek to resolve conflicts between persons involved in complaints which are within the jurisdiction of the Commission;
- (4) Recommend to the appropriate agency or person legislative, administrative, legal or other ameliorative action to be taken to eliminate discrimination and foster good will;
- (5) Invite and enlist the cooperation of any citizen, organization or committee which can be of benefit in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Human Relations Commission in carrying out specific programs designed to lessen conflicts and in improving understanding in the community;

- (6) Adopt such bylaws, rules of procedure and regulations as may be deemed necessary to conduct its meetings, conciliation conferences, public hearings and general operations and to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Ordinance;
- (7) The Commission may also cooperate and assist any person who requests such cooperation or assistance for the purpose of developing or maintaining equal employment opportunity programs;
- (8) Prepare and submit annually to the City Council, at or shortly after the end of each fiscal year, a report of its activities during such fiscal year;
- (9) Refer individuals and/or information to other agencies or persons when appropriate. Serve as a resource/liaison for information, training, education and outreach efforts.
[Ord. No. 1996-8]
- (10) Promote and sponsor a Juneteenth celebration and/or event on an annual basis, which may be held in conjunction or partnership with one or more other celebrations of Juneteenth, and to solicit community and corporate sponsorships to assist in funding the celebration and/or event, as well as selecting a date and time for the Juneteenth celebration and/or event that maximizes participation. The City Council, each year, shall determine a budget for the celebration and/or event, as part of the City's annual budget-making process. **[Added 10-26-2020 by Ord. No. 2020-76]**
- (11) To select a date and time for the sponsored Juneteenth Celebration and/or event to maximize participation; **[Added 1-25-2021 by Ord. No. 2021-4]**
- (12) To promote and sponsor an annual observance in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday in October, which may be held in conjunction or partnership with one or more other observances or organizations, and to solicit community and corporate sponsorships to assist in funding the celebration and/or event. **[Added 1-25-2021 by Ord. No. 2021-4]**
- (13) To serve as an advisory body to the City Council, the City Manager and other City officials in creating, supporting, developing and maintaining plans for the City's Welcoming America initiative, including specifically plans for Welcoming America week.
- (14) To establish indicators that will allow the City to measure how well the community is meeting the standard.
- (15) To serve as convening body for and liaison to other public and private organizations in the City.
- (16) To coordinate with the Mayor and City Council, the City Manager, and other City officials to showcase the vibrancy of the City's international residents.
- (17) To monitor demographic data on the economic impact and expressed needs of immigrant residents in relation to the City's Welcoming America initiative and programs.