

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 5-84

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Philadelphia to secure equal rights for all the citizens of the City of Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the City's efforts to end discrimination against persons solely because of their sexual orientation;

THEREFORE, by the power vested in me in accordance with Section 3-100(h) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Authorizing the establishment of the Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities.

Section 1 Composition of the Commission

a. The Commission shall be comprised of not more than 25 members appointed by the Mayor, including:

- (1) one (1) representative from the Department of Public Welfare, relating to adult services and/or children and youth services;
- (2) two (2) representatives from the Department of Public Health, including representatives from either the Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health and/or infectious disease programs of the department;
- (3) the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations; or his/her designee;
- (4) one (1) representative from the Philadelphia Police Department;
- (5) 12-15 representatives from the general community, two of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor as Co-Chairpersons of the Commission;
- (6) the Mayor shall encourage the Board of Education to participate fully in the work of this Commission; and
- (7) other agencies and departments of city government as may be requested to participate and cooperate with the Commission to assure the adequate implementation of the goals of this Order.

b. Members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. The Mayor shall appoint representatives from the community to this Commission in an effort to reflect the apparent broad diversity of persons within the sexual minority community.

c. Members of this Commission representing the public shall serve without salary on this Commission.

d. The Mayor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Commission who shall be solely accountable to the Mayor for the performance of his/her duties. The Executive Director shall assist the Commission in performing its duties and in communicating with the various departments and agencies under the city's jurisdiction in furtherance of the goals of the Commission, and shall regularly report to the Mayor on the progress and status of the Commission's activities.

Section 2 Functions of the Commission

a. The Commission shall study problems facing the sexual minority community in Philadelphia and make recommendations to the Mayor, and/or with his approval to any other agency, department or branch of city government, regarding policy and/or legislative changes which would further the goal of obtaining equal rights for all persons, and in particular, sexual minority citizens.

b. The Commission shall work with the city agencies to end discrimination against sexual minority citizens in the public and private sectors in Philadelphia, and shall assist the city in assuring the adequate and effective enforcement of the Fair Practices Act, especially its provisions prohibiting discrimination against sexual minority citizens.

c. The Commission shall work with city agencies to improve the quality of city services to sexual minority citizens of Philadelphia.

d. The Commission shall work to educate city personnel and the public in general about the problems and issues affecting the sexual minority community in Philadelphia.

e. The Commission may, given the nature of its charge, receive complaints from persons stating that they have been discriminated against by the city or by private persons, businesses or agencies on the basis of their sexual orientation, or by lesbian/gay community organizations and businesses on the basis of their sex, race, or other factors. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to refer such complaints to the appropriate authority(ies) for investigation and resolution, and to assist in the investigation and resolution of such complaints. The Commission shall also assist the Human Relations Commission, when requested, in investigating problems of discrimination within the lesbian/gay community.

f. The Commission shall issue an annual report to the Mayor on its activities.

g. The records and files of the Commission shall be held in such a way as to assure appropriate confidentiality of sexual minority citizens seeking its assistance.

Section 3

All employees, officials, departments and agencies in the Executive-Administrative branch of government are hereby directed to cooperate with the Sexual Minority Commission to the fullest extent possible consistent with the Home Rule Charter of the City of Philadelphia.

Section 4

This order shall become effective upon its issuance by the Mayor and shall remain in full force and effect unless and until it is rescinded by the Mayor.

February 23, 1984
Date

W. Wilson Goode
W. WILSON GOODE