

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7-17**

### **MAYOR'S OFFICE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Philadelphia has a deep commitment to addressing the challenges and needs of people with disabilities, including a desire to create opportunities to effectively utilize their skills and abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the City to promote equal rights for people with disabilities who live in, work in, or visit Philadelphia; and

**WHEREAS**, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) applies to the City as a local government entity, and, in subtitle A, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs, and activities provided by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the City take all necessary and prompt actions to be in full compliance with local, state and federal civil rights laws that ensure equal access and opportunity for people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to delineate City government’s efforts to address the needs of all people with disabilities;

Now THEREFORE, I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the authority vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby ORDER as follows:

#### **SECTION 1. MAYOR’S OFFICE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Mayor’s Office on People with Disabilities (“MOPD”) is hereby established in the Office of the Mayor. MOPD shall be staffed by an Executive Director and such other staff as authorized by the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

#### **SECTION 2. PURPOSE**

1. To advise the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, with respect to existing and proposed programs, services, and projects and all other matters related to people with disabilities;
2. To support, in conjunction with the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer and the City’s Coordinator for Title II of ADA, the City’s compliance with its responsibilities under the ADA, Fair Housing Act, Rehabilitation Act, Architectural Barriers Act, and other codes and laws governing and supporting people with disabilities;

3. To aid in the development of programs and services for people with disabilities, in cooperation with the public and private sectors;
4. To ensure the rights and privileges of full citizenship of people with disabilities by promoting compliance with legislation and policies pertaining to civil rights;
5. To promote and support self-advocacy, self-awareness and independence by and for people with disabilities; and
6. To assist people with disabilities through referral, information and direct services.

### **SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. The Mayor shall appoint an Executive Director of MOPD, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor, and report directly to the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer.
2. The Executive Director shall be responsible for advising the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, or designee, regarding the initiation, development and implementation of City policies and programs to achieve the purposes and goals of the Mayor's policies with reference to people with disabilities and this Executive Order.
3. The Executive Director shall coordinate, among other things, the provision of constituent services and management of all Commission programs, activities, and program/event related work.
4. The Executive Director shall attend meetings, programs and events throughout the City that are relevant to the community of people with disabilities.
5. The Executive Director in coordination with the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, or designee, and taking into consideration recommendations made by the Commission, shall recommend prospective Commission members to the Mayor.

### **SECTION 4. REPORT OF MOPD**

1. Not later than thirty (30) days before the start of each new fiscal year, the Executive Director shall submit a written report to the Mayor detailing the objectives and accomplishments of MOPD, including those of the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities.

## **SECTION 5. MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities (the "Commission") is hereby reestablished subject to the terms of this Executive Order, and shall be situated in the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. The appointed members of the Commission shall serve under the direction of the Executive Director of the MOPD.

1. The purpose and objectives of the Commission are:
  - a. To address issues of concern to individuals with disabilities;
  - b. To promote the full integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life;
  - c. To improve the quality of life of all persons who have disabilities within the City of Philadelphia: thereby, improving the quality of life of the entire Philadelphia community by allowing it to benefit from the contributions of its residents with disabilities;
  - d. To serve as a forum, and function as a focal point, for communication among persons with disabilities regarding views, concerns and possible solutions for issues affecting persons with disabilities;
  - e. To coordinate or carry out programs, in coordination with MOPD, designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities, including, where necessary, the activities of other local groups organized to meet the needs of people with disabilities; and
  - f. To recruit and recommend prospective Commission members to the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer and the Executive Director of MOPD. The recommendations shall reflect the community of people with disabilities. At least one month prior to making recommendations, the Commission shall solicit nominations.
2. The organization and membership of the Commission shall be established as follows:
  - a. The Commission shall be composed of no fewer than eleven (11) voting members appointed by the Mayor. The members shall be representative of the diverse composition of the population of the City, including the population of people with disabilities, and shall share a commitment to the goals of the Commission.
  - b. The initial membership of the Commission shall consist of those members currently serving on the Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities under Executive Order No. 09-14, who shall continue their service on the Commission established herein through April 30, 2018, at the pleasure of the Mayor.

- c. Thereafter, members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor for two-year terms. The terms shall begin on May 1 of each even numbered year, and shall expire on April 30 of the next even numbered year. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. Members shall continue to serve until their successors have been appointed.
  - d. Any appointed member desiring to resign from the Commission shall submit a written resignation to the Executive Director of MOPD. The Executive Director shall forward the letter of resignation to the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer for appropriate action.
  - e. Members shall serve without compensation.
3. Meetings of the Commission shall be held at least six (6) times per year. Additional meetings shall be established by the bylaws.

#### **SECTION 6. OTHER PROVISIONS**

1. All employees, officials, departments and agencies in the Executive and Administrative branch of the government under the control of the Mayor are hereby directed to cooperate with MOPD to the fullest extent possible consistent with the Home Rule Charter.
2. Executive Order No. 09-14 is hereby rescinded.
3. To the extent any bylaw of the Commission conflicts with this Order, such bylaw is superseded.
4. This Order shall take effect immediately.

September 12, 2017

  
James F. Kenney, Mayor