

City of Framingham



The City Council of Framingham



ORDER NO. 2021-130-001 REQUEST OF THE ORDINANCE AND RULES SUBCOMMITTEE

UPON THE REQUEST OF THE ORDINANCE AND RULES SUBCOMMITTEE, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

That the City Council vote to adopt the Ordinance to enable the creation of a Women, Children, and Families Commission, as shown below:

An Ordinance Creating a Commission on Women and Families

Be it ordained by the Framingham Council, as follows:

Article II of the Framingham Bylaws are amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:-

Section ##. Commission on Women and Families

Section ##.1. Purpose.

This ordinance establishes a new multiple-member body, the Commission on Women and Families ("Commission"), in the City of Framingham with a mission to empower women and families in Framingham by advocating for their needs. The intent of the Commission is to enhance the lives of the residents of Framingham by raising awareness of the needs of women and families; promoting equity and fostering equal opportunities for those in our community. The Commission seeks to improve the quality of life for women and families most in need through advocacy, collaboration, education, outreach, and by making recommendations to the Mayor on these matters. The Commission will examine and facilitate discussions on issues affecting women and families, especially children. By providing a voice for all women and families in Framingham the Commission will promote fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, intersectionality, equity, economic prosperity, and a strong foundation for all who live here to thrive.

Section ##.2. Definitions.

- "Family": A group of two or more people living together and/or taking responsibility for each other for various activities relative to daily living and support.

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Section ##.3. Duties and Responsibilities.

The Commission shall carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Advise the Mayor and city agencies on issues impacting women and families;
2. Identify specific problems and develop solution strategies; including identify local policies, or practices, that contribute to inequality and work to eliminate and/or counter them;
3. Convene events, activities, listening sessions, and discussions to learn issues, educate, raise awareness, and advocate for change;
4. Design special programs to aid women and families;
5. Encourage more civic participation by women and people of color by removing barriers;
6. Collaborate with the Mayor, city leadership, municipal boards and committees, the Council, and local entities to address areas of inequity;
7. Partner with neighboring communities, local organizations, groups, and related boards and committees to expand outreach and impact;
8. Develop metrics by which to track and report progress through analytics, or other measurement
9. Recognize, celebrate strength, contributions, and success;
10. Advocate and communicate regarding Women and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (“BIPOC”) Owned Businesses and job opportunities adding to the economic development of Framingham, including workforce and childcare solutions and resources;
11. Provide an annual evaluation of this Commission’s work and goals for the future year. The annual report shall be provided by June 30 of each year.

Section ##.4. Composition, Membership and Terms.

The Commission will consist of eleven (11) community members residing in each of Framingham’s districts. One member shall be appointed for each of Framingham’s nine (9) districts, and two members shall be appointed representing the business or non-profit community. Members are appointed by the Mayor and submitted to the Council for approval. The Mayor’s appointments should seek, and preference given, to members of a racial diversity reflective of Framingham’s demographics (as of the 2020 Census, 69% White, 7% Black or African American, 8% Asian, 16% Hispanic or Latino, 3% more than one race). All members of the Commission will hold 3-year terms, or until each member no longer serves in the position that resulted in the member’s selection. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled by the mayor for the unexpired term of such member. The first appointments of the Mayor shall be as follows: four (4) for three (3) years, four (4) for two years, and three (3) for one year.

The Mayor and the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer will serve as ex officio members of the Commission.

Section ##.5. Officers.

The Commission shall elect from its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary annually at the first meeting of each fiscal year.

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Section ##.6.Rules & Regulations.

The Commission shall follow the rules and regulations of multimember bodies.

SECTION 2.

Severability

If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect on February 1, 2022.

FIRST READING

YEAS: Bryant, Cannon, Case, King, Leombruno, Long, Ottaviani, Shepard, Stefanini,
Steiner, Stewart-Morales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing
PASSED IN COUNCIL: DECEMBER 7, 2021

SECOND READING

YEAS: Bryant, Cannon, Case, King, Leombruno, Long, Ottaviani, Shepard, Stefanini,
Steiner, Stewart-Morales
NAYS: None
ABSENT: All members were present in person or via teleconferencing
PASSED IN COUNCIL: DECEMBER 21, 2021