

Chapter 175 COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS

175.01 Establishment.

There is hereby created and established an entity known as the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, whose fifteen (15) members shall be appointed by Council. The Commission will include individuals who are immigrants or refugees or children of immigrants or refugees with at least one person who is under the age of 25 upon their appointment or re-appointment. The purpose of the Commission is to advise Council on issues of common concern to immigrants, particularly in the areas of health and human services, education, and the demographic makeup of the Columbus immigrant/refugee community.

175.02 Membership.

(a) The Commission shall be composed of fifteen (15) members. Members may be reappointed to a new three-year term at the conclusion of their initial term. All member appointments shall be subject to a vote by Council, with a majority in the affirmative required for appointment.

(b) The initial appointments to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs shall occur no later than January 1, 2025, and the terms for the initial appointments shall vary to provide for staggered terms:

(1) Seven (7) members shall be appointed to a term not exceeding two years;

(2) Eight (8) members shall be appointed to a term not exceeding three years;

(3) Upon expiration of their initial term, a member may be reappointed by the Council to a new three-year term.

(c) Commission members shall be disqualified from service for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or misconduct in office. Removal of a Commission member shall take place at a regular meeting of the Commission and is subject to a two-thirds supermajority vote of the members appointed to and serving on the Commission. The member subject to removal shall have the right to a hearing in front of the Commission.

175.03 Organization of the Commission.

The Commission shall meet and organize by electing a chair and a vice chair. The Commission shall adopt by-laws or rules of procedure to govern the conduct of its business which shall include provisions for regular or special meetings, voting procedures, amendment of its by-laws or rules, minutes of meetings, or any other procedural matters the Commission deems necessary to regulate for the conduct of its business. Such rules shall be adopted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

175.04 Functions and duties of the Commission.

The Commission shall:

a) develop an annual work plan and report that include a summary of Commission accomplishments and challenges, as well as recommendations on how the City can continue to develop

and implement programs, services, and practices specific to the purpose of furthering immigrant and refugee access to and participation in Columbus's economic, cultural, and civic life.

- b) monitor requirements of federal, state, and local immigration, welfare and other laws that affect immigrants, and recommend to the city council actions to maximize the benefits to local immigrants under existing laws and to minimize the adverse impacts to local immigrants under the law;
- c) review and evaluate existing policies and make specific recommendations to Council regarding City policy related to immigration matters;
- d) support community involvement in and discussion of regional issues and decisions about our city's future as it relates to immigration;
- e) receive staff support, to be provisioned by the Department of Neighborhoods, equivalent to no less than one (1) full-time employee.