

ORDINANCE 2176

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD
“HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE” UNDER CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE VIII TITLED
“BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS” WITHIN THE BOROUGH CODE**

WHEREAS, South Plainfield is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise our families, in large part because of our wealth of diverse bodies, minds, and backgrounds.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield have determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to create a Human Relations Committee of the Borough of South Plainfield;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 17 the Code of the Borough of South Plainfield titled, “Boards, Committees and Commissions” shall be amended to add Article VIII, Human Relations Committee as follows:

ARTICLE VIII - Human Relations Committee

SECTION 17-44. Establishment, Membership and Terms; Compensation.

There is hereby established a Human Relations Committee for the Borough of South Plainfield that shall be made up of eleven (11) members and four (4) advisory members. The membership of the Commission shall be composed of a member from each Borough agency as follows:

- A. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission to be designated by the Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission.
- B. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Recreation Commission to be designated by the President of the Recreations Commission.
- C. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Business and Economic Development Advisory Group to be designated by the Chair of the Business and Economic Development Advisory Group.
- D. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Environmental Commission to be designated by the Chair of the Environmental Commission.
- E. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees to be designated by the President of the Library Board of Trustees.
- F. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Housing and Community Development Committee to be designated by the Council Liaison of the Housing and Community Development Committee.
- G. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee to be designated by the Chair of the Public Celebrations Committee.
- H. One (1) Member of the South Plainfield Mayor’s Wellness Committee to be designated by the Chair of the Mayor’s Wellness Committee.
- I. One (1) member of the South Plainfield Board of Education to be designated by the President of the Board of Education.

- J. One (1) member of the Council of the Borough of South Plainfield who shall act as a liaison to be designated by the Mayor.
- K. One (1) member representative of the South Plainfield Police Department to be designated by the Police Chief.
- L. Advisory members must be eighteen (18) years of age and residents of South Plainfield. They shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council. Each member shall serve for a term of three (3) years and until the appointment and qualification of their successor, except that the initial term of advisory members shall be as follows: two (2) advisory members for a term of three (3); one (1) advisory member for a term of two (2) years; and one (1) advisory member for a term of one (1) year. The initial appointment of advisory members shall be done at the annual reorganization meeting of the Mayor and Council next following the adoption of this Ordinance.
- M. All members shall serve without compensation.

Except for the initial appointment in the year of adoption of this Ordinance, all terms shall be from the day of appointment until December 31 of the year in which the appointment was made.

17-45. Appointment.

For the initial year the Committee is established, appointments shall be made by the respective Commissions, Committees, groups and individuals as referenced in Section 17-44 by September 1 of each year to serve the remainder of the calendar year. For each year thereafter, appointments shall be made by February 1 of the calendar year. Upon each appointment being made, the person making such appointment shall notify the Borough Clerk of the appointment and provide the name and contact information to the Borough Clerk who shall maintain a record of same.

17-46. Powers and Duties. The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To establish, amend, and supplement its own bylaws to the extent not inconsistent with this article nor with any other municipal, state or federal regulation or law. The Committee shall meet regularly and at a minimum of bi-monthly (every two months).
- B. To foster, through community effort, good will, cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of the inhabitants of this Borough, and to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council for the development of policies and procedures in general and for programs of formal and informal education that will aid in eliminating all types of discrimination based upon race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, sexual preference, marital status, or developmental, mental, or physical disabilities.
- C. To investigate, mediate and attempt to resolve without resort to the judicial system or other form of adjudication any allegations of unlawful discrimination by residents of the Borough.
- D. To make a written annual report in June of each year to the Mayor and Council detailing its activities for the previous year and to make presentations before the Mayor and Council at such time as the Council shall request or the Committee deems desirable.
- E. The Human Relations Committee shall advise the Mayor and Borough Council on ways to promote social and cultural harmony throughout the Borough. The Committee shall

propose educational and cultural programs to promote awareness and foster an inclusive sense of community within South Plainfield. It will also provide guidance to the Mayor and Council and other Borough Committees on ways to encourage kindness, cooperation, and unity among the multicultural residents of our town.

- F. The Committee is dedicated to cultivating an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance in South Plainfield that ensures residents and visitors of all backgrounds and circumstances can feel safe and welcome here.
- G. The Human Relations Committee shall be advisory in nature, it nor its members have the authority to contract, bind or act on behalf of the Borough of South Plainfield. Its sole function is to assist the Mayor, Council, Committees, Boards, Agencies and Administration of the Borough of South Plainfield in matters provided for above in the Borough of South Plainfield.

SECTION 17-47. Chairperson.

The Human Relations Committee shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from those members described in paragraphs 17-44A through H above a chairperson who shall preside over all meetings.

SECTION 17-48. Rules and Bylaws.

The conduct of the Human Relations Committee at its meetings and for all activities of such Committee shall be governed by Rules and Bylaws which shall be established and adopted by the Committee at its first meeting of each year.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with New Jersey law.