

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

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In City Council

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Amending the "Code of Ordinances City of Lowell, Massachusetts", as amended, Chapter 9, Article VIII Thereof Entitled, "Immigration Assistance Commission" with respect to Section 9-25, 9-26 and 9-27.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL, as follows:

That "The Code of Ordinances City of Lowell, Massachusetts" hereinafter called the "Code", adopted by the City Council on December 23, 2008, as amended, is hereby amended with respect to Chapter 9, Article VIII thereof, entitled "Immigration Assistance Commission", by rescinding Chapter 9, Article VIII, sections 9-25, 9-26 and 9-27 and enacting in place thereof the following Ordinance which shall supersede the aforementioned sections of the Code previously adopted on December 9, 1997 by the Lowell City Council. Chapter 9, Article VIII of the Lowell City Code shall now read as follows:

"Article VIII. Immigration Assistance Commission

§9-25. Purpose; membership; appointment; terms of office.

Purpose.

An Immigration Assistance Commission is hereby established for the purpose of advocating for the well-being of Lowell's diverse immigrant and refugee population and the development of policies and programs that assist resident immigrants of the City of Lowell in addressing their needs and concerns.

Membership.

The Immigration Assistance Commission shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the City Manager subject to confirmation by the City Council and four (4) additional ex officio members as hereinafter provided.

The aforementioned nine appointed members shall be comprised of persons representing the following offices, disciplines and interests:

- Two persons from the Business Community;
- Two organizations that serve diverse populations and whose representatives have experience working with immigrants and refugees;
- Five diverse immigrant groups

The following shall be ex-officio members of the Commission: The City Manager or designee, the Mayor or designee; a member of the City Council or designee; a member of the School Committee or designee.

Terms.

Three members shall be appointed to serve for one (1) year, three for two (2) years and three for three (3) years and annually thereafter there shall be appointed three members to serve for three (3) years. The members who are appointed by the City Manager shall hold office until their successors are duly appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by the City Council. The chairperson of the Immigration Assistance Commission shall be designated by the City Manager.

§9-26. Supervision; compensation.

The Immigration Assistance Commission shall be under the administrative supervision of the City Manager, and the members thereof shall serve without compensation.

§9-27. Powers and duties.

It shall be the duty of the Immigration Assistance Commission to:

- promote the economic, civic and social integration of newcomers—immigrants, refugees—into American society while at the same time increasing public understanding and appreciation of the contributions of immigrants and awareness of Lowell's immigrant history.
- advise the City Council and the City Administration on issues affecting Lowell's immigrant and refugee population, providing guidance in the formulation of policies, partnerships and programs that are designed to meet the problems and provide services to newcomers to the City.
- encourage understanding between and among Lowell's varied immigrant groups, newly arrived and established, and the larger Lowell community.
- act as a clearinghouse in respect to aiding and assisting in whatever way feasible any immigrant resident of the City of Lowell."

All provisions of the Code of the City of Lowell, as amended, which are consistent with this Ordinance, shall continue in effect but all provisions of said Code inconsistent herewith are repealed.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as amended.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Thomas E. Sweeney
Asst. City Solicitor

Ordinance/immigrationcomm.