

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-89 OF THE NORWICH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART OF ARTICLE VII. COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION FROM NINE TO SEVEN AND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS REQUIRED TO BE SELECTED FROM CERTAIN CATEGORIES.

WHEREAS Article VII of Chapter 2 established a commission to advise the mayor and the council of the City of Norwich of the needs of persons with disabilities within the Norwich community with relation to housing, employment, transportation, economics, health, recreation and other relevant matters consistent with powers and duties established and stated in Sections 2-88 and 2-91 of Article VII; and

WHEREAS the commission presently consists of nine members to include four members who are persons with disabilities, two members who are relatives of one or more persons with disabilities or who regularly work with or provide services to one or more persons with disabilities, and three additional members, all of whom must be electors of the City of Norwich and appointed by the council to serve terms of two years, or until their successor shall be duly appointed; and

WHEREAS in its annual report for the year 2021 received and accepted by the council of the City of Norwich at its meeting of February 7, 2021, the commission reported that it was not able to meet in person during 2021 due to the restrictions on gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic and that at the one meeting it attempted to hold during 2021 was unable to transact business due to a lack of a quorum; and

WHEREAS there are currently a number of vacancies on the commission due to resignations, some of which may reflect the difficulty individuals within specified categories have in attending meetings either in person or remotely; and

WHEREAS the council of the City of Norwich wishes to continue the Commission for Persons with Disabilities as an advisory body of the City of Norwich as set forth in Article VII, of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS reducing the number of members of the commission from nine to seven and reconfiguring the membership of the same should assist the commission in conducting meetings and may encourage more individuals to seek appointment to the commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that Section 2-89. Created; members. Chapter 2 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

1. The Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities is hereby created and shall have its principal office in City Hall, Norwich, Connecticut, or such other place as may be designated, and shall consist of ~~nine~~ seven members; to include ~~four~~ one members who ~~are~~ is a persons with disabilities, ~~two~~ one members who ~~are~~ is a relatives of one or more persons with disabilities or who regularly work with or provide services to one or more persons with disabilities; and ~~three~~ four additional members. who are not required to be eligible for appointment as a member of any of the three categories specified herein, but who may be a member of one or more of the specified categories. Members of the commission, who all must be electors of the City of Norwich, shall be appointed by the council, and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors shall be duly appointed. It shall not be a disqualification to the appointment of an individual who could be representative in any of the three specified categories listed herein as one of the four additional members to be appointed by the council and such appointments are to be encouraged.

2. This ordinance shall take effect on August 1, 2022. Members of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities serving as of August 1, 2022 shall serve out their terms of office with the adoption of this amended ordinance notwithstanding, may be reclassified as to membership.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Stacy Gould
Alderman Derrell Q. Wilson