

**ORDINANCE 1707  
ADOPTED 10/20/2014  
PUBLISHED 10/23/2014  
AMENDED BY 1719 (7/20/2015)**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION FOR THE DISABLED**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Norwich be amended by adding Article VII to Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances to include sections to be numbered 2-88 through 2-93 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE VII. COMMISSION FOR THE DISABLED**

**Sec. 2-88. Purpose.**

It is the purpose of this article to establish 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 the duties enumerated in Sec. 2-91. The Commission shall, in addition, recommend to the mayor and Council ways in which programs and services offered by the City of Norwich may be made more accessible to persons with disabilities and in which obstacles hindering employment and enjoyment of programs and services may be eliminated.

**Sec. 2-89. Created; members.**

The Norwich Commission for the Disabled 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 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. 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 2 years, or until their successors shall be duly appointed.

**Sec. 2-90. Definitions.**

Unless the context requires otherwise,

Commission means the Norwich Commission for the Disabled.

Disability means any condition or characteristic that renders a person a “person with disabilities” as defined below.

Person with disabilities means any person who (i) has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of such an impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment. As used herein:

- (a) Physical or mental impairment means (1) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory; including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or (2) any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. This term includes, but is not limited to, however, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction and alcoholism.
- (b) Major life activities means functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
- (c) Has a record of such an impairment means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- (d) Is regarded as having an impairment means (1) has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities, but that is treated by the commission as constituting such a limitation; or (2) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment.

Sec. 2-91. Powers and Duties.

The Norwich Commission for the Disabled is hereby empowered to exercise all the duties as an advisory body consistent with its purpose as stated in Sec. 2-88 and as further set forth in this section.

The duties of the Norwich Commission for the Disabled shall be as follows:

- (a) To continuously study and analyze the needs of residents with disabilities in Norwich in order to maintain innovative approaches to their changing needs.
- (b) To foster understanding and respect for persons with disabilities.

- (c) To encourage participation of residents with disabilities in all aspects of community life.
- (d) To exchange information and cooperate with organizations in surrounding towns, and at the state and national level, as appropriate, in furtherance of its purpose, powers, and duties.
- (e) To advise the mayor and city council of the needs of persons with disabilities within the Norwich community with relation to housing, employment, transportation, economics, health, recreation and other relevant matters.
- (f) To report to the Mayor and Council on a regular basis including the filing of a written annual report on or before the first meeting of the Council in February of each year commencing in February, 2016 and continuing annually thereafter.

Sec. 2-92 No Compensation.

The members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

Sec. 2-93 Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective ten days (10) days after publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation within the City of Norwich.

**Mayor Deberey Hinchey**