


City of Alexandria, Virginia

6-10-08

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 6, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

ISSUE: Consideration of proposed ordinance to amend the Human Rights Code.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council introduce the ordinance, pass it on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on June 14, 2008. The Human Rights Commission supports these changes, and has worked with the City Attorney to develop amendments to the Human Rights Code that would:

- (1) Reflect the title of the Director of the Office of Human Rights, replacing "administrator";
- (2) Correct misspellings and eliminate redundant language, such as "forthwith" and "thereupon";
- (3) Eliminate obsolete language that has been changed or rendered void by statute;
- (4) Eliminate duplicative numbering of subsections;
- (5) Capitalize proper names and titles, including City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and Human Rights Commission; and
- (6) Remove, based on a Circuit Court ruling, the phrase regarding compensatory damages from the list of provisions to be included in any written decision of the Human Rights Commission following a public hearing.

DISCUSSION: City Council adoption of these changes will address a decision of the Alexandria Circuit Court, which held that the Human Rights Commission does not have the authority under state law to recommend compensatory damages for a complainant who, the Commission has determined, suffered discrimination in violation of the Alexandria Human Rights Ordinance. The proposed change removes the phrase regarding compensatory damages from a list of provisions to be included in any written decision of the Commission following a public hearing.

Another proposed change is the elimination of the provision under the unlawful housing practices section that is now rendered void by statute. It provided that nothing in the ordinance would bar any person from refusing to sell or rent any housing to unmarried individuals cohabiting contrary to law.

The proposed ordinance would also reflect the title of the Director of the Office of Human Rights and would correct misspellings, eliminate redundant language, such as “forthwith” and “thereupon”, and eliminate duplicative numbering of subsections. Another proposed change is to capitalize proper names and titles, including City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and Human Rights Commission.

The Human Rights Commission has reviewed the proposed changes and has identified these changes to the City Code as ones which would both clarify the Human Rights Ordinance and make it consistent with state law.

ATTACHMENT: Ordinance

STAFF:

Karen S. Snow, Assistant City Attorney

Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director Office of Human Rights

Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager

Introduction and first reading:	6/10/08
Public hearing:	6/14/08
Second reading and enactment:	6/14/08

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 12-4-2 (FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECLARATION OF POLICY), 12-4-3 (DEFINITIONS), 12-4-4 (UNLAWFUL HOUSING PRACTICES), 12-4-5 (UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES), 12-4-6 (CITY CONTRACTS), 12-4-7 (HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTICES), 12-4-10 (EDUCATION), 12-4-12 (HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION-CREATION; COMPOSITION), 12-4-13 (ORGANIZATION, MEETINGS, SECRETARY AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION), 12-4-14 (HUMAN RIGHTS ADMINISTRATOR), 12-4-15 (POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION), 12-4-16 (COMPLAINTS GENERALLY), 12-4-17 (INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE CAUSE OF COMPLAINT FILED BY A COMPLAINANT), 12-4-18 (CONCILIATION; BREACH OF CONCILIATION AGREEMENT; PROCEDURE; HEARING; DECISION), 12-4-19 (AMENDMENTS TO COMPLAINTS), 12-4-20 (ANSWERS TO COMPLAINTS), 12-4-21 (HEARINGS; DECISIONS), 12-4-22 (INTERLOCUTORY RELIEF), 12-4-23 (JUDICIAL REVIEW), 12-4-24 (JUDICIAL ACTION TO ENFORCE COMMISSION DECISION), 12-4-24.1 (CIVIL PENALTY), 12-4-27 (ADVISORY OPINIONS), 12-4-28 (FORMS), 12-4-29 (CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CITY ATTORNEY NOT TO REPRESENT COMMISSION, ADMINISTRATOR), 12-4-30 (SEVERABILITY) all of Chapter 4 (HUMAN RIGHTS), Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance amends the Human Rights Code to (1) delete the Human Rights Commission's ability to award or recommend compensatory damages based on Circuit Court rulings; (2) makes technical changes such as updating provisions to reflect that the title of the current head of the Office of Human Rights is "Director" not "Administrator"; (3) capitalizes proper names and titles, including City Council, City Manager, City Attorney and Human Rights Commission; and (4) corrects typographical errors, misspellings, misnumbering of sections and eliminates obsolete or redundant language, such as "forthwith" and "thereupon."

Sponsor

Staff

Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director Office of Human Rights
Karen S. Snow, Assistant City Attorney

Authority

Alexandria City Charter, §§ 2.01, 2.06

Estimated Costs of Implementation

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

1 ORDINANCE NO. _____

2
3 AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 12-4-2 (FINDINGS OF FACT AND
4 DECLARATION OF POLICY), 12-4-3 (DEFINITIONS), 12-4-4 (UNLAWFUL
5 HOUSING PRACTICES), 12-4-5 (UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES),
6 12-4-6 (CITY CONTRACTS), 12-4-7 (HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE
7 PRACTICES), 12-4-10 (EDUCATION), 12-4-12 (HUMAN RIGHTS
8 COMMISSION-CREATION; COMPOSITION), 12-4-13 (ORGANIZATION,
9 MEETINGS, SECRETARY AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
10 COMMISSION). 12-4-14 (HUMAN RIGHTS ADMINISTRATOR), 12-4-15
11 (POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION), 12-4-16
12 (COMPLAINTS GENERALLY), 12-4-17 (INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE
13 CAUSE OF COMPLAINT FILED BY A COMPLAINANT), 12-4-18
14 (CONCILIATION; BREACH OF CONCILIATION AGREEMENT;
15 PROCEDURE; HEARING; DECISION), 12-4-19 (AMENDMENTS TO
16 COMPLAINTS), 12-4-20 (ANSWERS TO COMPLAINTS), 12-4-21 (HEARINGS;
17 DECISIONS), 12-4-22 (INTERLOCUTORY RELIEF), 12-4-23 (JUDICIAL
18 REVIEW), 12-4-24 (JUDICIAL ACTION TO ENFORCE COMMISSION
19 DECISION), 12-4-24.1 (CIVIL PENALTY), 12-4-27 (ADVISORY OPINIONS),
20 12-4-28 (FORMS), 12-4-29 (CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CITY ATTORNEY
21 NOT TO REPRESENT COMMISSION, ADMINISTRATOR), 12-4-30
22 (SEVERABILITY) all of Chapter 4 (HUMAN RIGHTS), Title 12 (EDUCATION,
23 SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE) of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
24 Virginia, 1981, as amended.

25
26
27 THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

28
29 Section 1. That Section 12-4-2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
30 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
31 follows:

32
33 Sec. 12-4-2 Findings of fact and declaration of policy.

34
35 (a) *Findings.* The City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
36 having conducted public hearings finds:

37
38 (1) The population of the City of Alexandria consists of people of
39 different races, colors, sexes, religions, ancestries, national origins, marital
40 statuses, familial statuses, ages, sexual orientations and disabilities, many of
41 whom, because of their race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin,
42 marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability, in some
43 instances have been unjustly discriminated against with respect to housing,
44 employment, public accommodations, health and social services, education,
45 credit or eCity contracts.

1 (2) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
2 national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability
3 with respect to housing causes, at least in part, circumscribed and segregated
4 areas within the eCity and deprives many persons of the opportunity to live in the
5 eCity or the opportunity to live in decent housing.
6

7 (3) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
8 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability with respect to
9 employment denies job opportunities to many citizens of Alexandria and causes
10 depressed living conditions.
11

12 (4) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
13 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability in places of
14 public accommodation causes embarrassment and inconvenience to citizens and
15 visitors of the eCity and is detrimental to the welfare of the eCity.
16

17 (5) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
18 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability with respect to
19 credit, credit-related services or credit ratings arbitrarily denies financial
20 opportunities and purchasing power to many citizens.
21

22 (6) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
23 national origin, sexual orientation or disability with respect to education denies
24 appropriate role models and career and athletic opportunities to the students,
25 teachers and administrative staff.
26

27 (7) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
28 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability with respect to
29 health and social services is detrimental to the health of many citizens and
30 deprives many needy and unfortunate citizens of the bare essentials of life.
31

32 (8) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
33 national origin, marital status, age or disability with respect to e City contract
34 employment denies job opportunities to many citizens and causes depressed
35 living conditions.
36

37 (9) Discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
38 national origin, marital status, familial status, age or disability is contrary to the
39 law of the United States of America and the spirit of the Constitution of
40 Virginia.
41

42 (10) It is in the public interest and in furtherance of the welfare and well
43 being of all citizens of Alexandria, Virginia, to assure that each citizen is treated
44 fairly, provided equal protection of the law and afforded full and equal
45 opportunity to enjoy life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness.
46

(11) The conditions set forth in subsections (1) through (9) above have caused or are capable of causing or encouraging crime, riots, disturbances, disorders, delinquency, breach of peace, fires, poverty, slums, blighted areas, overcrowding, unhealthy and unsanitary conditions, disease, increased mortality, unstable family life, increased cost of government, excessive public assistance problems, unemployment, loss of manpower, loss of womanpower, loss of tax revenue, and loss of trade, commerce, business and productivity.

(b) *Policy.* The City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, hereby declares:

(1) That it is contrary to the policy of the eCity to permit the conditions mentioned in this section to exist or to arise.

(2) That it is the duty and policy of the eCity to exercise all available means and every power it possesses to protect the eCity and its citizens from such conditions and from the undesirable results that have been or may be caused or encouraged by the existence of such conditions.

(3) That, except as hereinafter provided, it is and shall be the policy of the eCity, in the exercise of its police power and all other powers it may possess, to protect the safety, health, peace, good order, comfort, convenience, morals and welfare of its inhabitants, to assure all persons the opportunity to obtain housing, public accommodations, employment, health and social services, credit, education and eCity contracts without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability.

(4) That to carry out these goals and policies it is and shall be the policy of the eCity generally, except as hereinafter provided, to prohibit discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability with respect to housing, public accommodations, employment, health and social services, credit, education and eCity contracts.

Section 2. That Section 12-4-3 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 12-4-3 Definitions.

(a) *Affirmative action employment program.* A positive program designed to ensure that a good faith effort will be made to employ applicants without regard to race, color, sex or disability. Such program, to be developed by the eCommission and approved by eCity eCouncil, shall include, where applicable, but shall not be limited to, the following: recruitment and recruitment

1 advertising, selection and selection criteria, upgrading, promotion, demotion or
2 transfer, lay-off or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation,
3 other terms or conditions of employment and selection for training, including
4 apprenticeship, and shall include realistic and attainable goals, methodology and
5 timetable for implementation of the program.

6
7 (b) *Age.* Unless stated or the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
8 word "age" as used in this chapter shall refer exclusively to persons who are 18
9 years of age or older.

10
11 (c) *Commercial real estate.* Land or any improvement thereon, or both,
12 or an interest in land or any improvement thereon, that is offered for sale or lease
13 and that is being utilized, or may be utilized, by a commercial or industrial use
14 under the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, whether such use is a permitted
15 or special use. The fact that some alterations to land or improvements, or both,
16 must be made after the sale or lease is completed, or that permits, licenses or
17 other approvals are necessary after the sale or lease to put the land or
18 improvements into an actual commercial or industrial use shall not preclude the
19 land or improvements from constituting commercial real estate.

20
21 (d) *Commission.* The ~~h~~H~~uman~~ ~~r~~R~~ights~~ ~~e~~C~~ommission~~ created by section
22 12-4-15 of this chapter.

23
24 (e) *Complainant.* Any person filing a complaint or on whose behalf a
25 complaint is filed by the ~~h~~H~~uman~~ ~~r~~R~~ights~~ ~~administrator~~ Director pursuant to this
26 chapter.

27
28 (f) *Credit.* The right granted by a creditor to a debtor to defer payment
29 of debt or to incur debt and defer its payment.

30
31 (g) *Disability.* A physical or mental impairment which substantially
32 limits one or more major life activities. "Physical or mental impairment" means
33 any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical
34 loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological;
35 musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs;
36 cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic or lymphatic; skin
37 and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental
38 retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness and specific
39 learning disabilities. "Major life activities" means functions such as caring for
40 one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking,
41 breathing, learning and working.

42
43 (h) *Discriminate, discrimination, discriminatory practice.* Any arbitrary
44 difference in treatment based on membership in a protected class not permitted
45 by this chapter, including harassment.

1 (i) *Educational institution.* Any nursery, day care center, kindergarten,
2 elementary or secondary school, academy, college, university, extension course
3 or nursing, secretarial, business, vocational, technical, trade or professional
4 school or joint apprenticeship program.
5

6 (j) *Employer.* Any person who employs four or more employees for
7 wages, salaries or Commission within the eCity, exclusive of parents, spouse or
8 children, and excluding any bona fide religious, fraternal or sectarian
9 organization not supported in whole or in part by governmental appropriations.
10

11 (k) *Employment agency.* Any person regularly undertaking with or
12 without compensation to advertise for or otherwise procure opportunities to work
13 or to procure, recruit, refer or place employees.
14

15 (l) *Familial status.* One or more individuals who have not attained the
16 age of 18 years and who are domiciled with:
17

18 (1) parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or
19 individuals; or
20

21 (2) the designee of such parent or other person having such custody,
22 with the written permission of such parent or other person.
23

24 The term "familial status" shall also apply to any person who is pregnant or is in
25 the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of 18
26 years. The provisions regarding familial status do not apply with respect to housing for
27 older persons.
28

29 (m) *Family.* One or more individuals living together on the premises as
30 a single housekeeping unit.
31

32 (n) *Harassment.* Any verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or
33 shows hostility toward an individual because of his or her race, color, religion,
34 gender, national origin, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.
35

36 (o) *Health or social service agency.* Any person rendering health or
37 social services. The term includes but is not limited to any hospital, clinic,
38 dispensary, nursing home, convalescent home, rehabilitation center, social work
39 agency, community service center, group work-recreation center, counseling and
40 guidance services agency, day camp or resident camp, protective service
41 organization or facility; but except for a hospital, clinic or dispensary, this term
42 shall not include any health or social service agency operated, supervised or
43 controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association or
44 society exclusively or primarily for members of its own faith.
45

1 (p) *Housing*. Any building, structure or portion thereof which is
2 occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or
3 more families and any vacant land which is offered for sale or lease for the
4 construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, or portion
5 thereof.

6
7 (q) ~~Human Rights administrator~~ Director. That person appointed
8 pursuant to section 12-4-14 of this chapter.

9
10 (r) *Labor organization*. Any organization which exists for the purpose
11 in whole or in part of collective bargaining or of dealing with employers on
12 behalf of employees concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment,
13 or of other mutual aid or protection in relation to employment.

14
15 (s) *Lending institution*. Any person, including but not limited to a bank,
16 insurance company or savings and loan association, regularly engaged in the
17 business of lending money, guaranteeing loans or furnishing consumer credit or
18 other credit-related services.

19
20 (t) *Owner*. Any person, including but not limited to a lessee, sublessee,
21 assignee, manager or agent, and also including the eCity and its departments,
22 boards, Commissions, authorities, committees and agencies, having the right of
23 ownership or possession or the authority to sell or rent any dwelling.

24
25 (u) *Pattern or practice of discrimination*. Any event, course of conduct
26 or way of doing business with respect to housing, employment, public
27 accommodations, credit, health and social services or eCity contracts which
28 happens on several occasions and which actually or predictably results in
29 different treatment which is discriminatory on the basis of race, color, sex,
30 religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual
31 orientation or disability.

32
33 (v) *Person with a disability*. Any person who has a disability, as defined
34 above, or has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an
35 impairment. "Has a record of such impairment" means has a history of, or has
36 been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially
37 limits one or more major life activities. "Is regarded as having such an
38 impairment" means: (i) has a physical or mental impairment that does not
39 substantially limit major life activities but is treated by a respondent as
40 constituting such a limitation; (ii) has a physical or mental impairment that
41 substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others
42 toward such impairment; or (iii) has none of the impairments defined under
43 "disability" above but is treated as having such an impairment by any person
44 within the jurisdiction of this chapter. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in
45 this chapter, the term "person with a disability" shall not include any person who

engages in the current, illegal use of a controlled substance, as defined in Virginia or federal law.

(w) *Public accommodation.* Includes every business, professional or commercial enterprise, refreshment, entertainment, sports, recreation or transportation facility in the eCity, whether licensed or not, public or private, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations are extended, offered, sold or otherwise made available in any manner to the general public. Public accommodation does not include a bona fide private club or other establishment not in fact open to the general public.

(x) *Public funds.* Any funds derived from any governmental body or agency.

(y) *Qualified person with a disability.* (i) With respect to employment, a person with a disability, who with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question; and (ii) with respect to other services, a person with a disability who meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of such services.

(z) *Real estate broker.* Any person, who for a fee or other valuable consideration, manages, sells, purchases, exchanges, rents or negotiates, or offers or attempts to negotiate the sale, purchase, exchange or rental of the real property of another, or holds himself or herself out as engaged in the business of managing, selling, purchasing, exchanging or renting the real property of another, including real estate salespersons, agents or any other persons employed by a real estate broker to perform or to assist in the performance of his or her business.

(aa) *Respondent.* Any person against whom a complaint is filed pursuant to this chapter.

(bb) *Restrictive covenant.* For purposes of this chapter, this is a provision written into a deed, lease, mortgage, deed of trust or contract that bars any person from owning or occupying housing on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability.

(cc) *Sexual orientation.* Having a preference for heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality, having a history of such a preference or being identified with such a preference.

(dd) *To rent.* Includes to lease, to sublease, to let or otherwise to grant for a consideration the right to occupy premises not owned by the occupant.

1 Section 3. That Section 12-4-4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
2 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
3 follows:
4

5 Sec. 12-4-4 Unlawful housing practices.
6

7 (a) *Unlawful housing practices--sale or rental.* Except as provided in
8 subsection (e) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person:
9

10 (1) to refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, to refuse
11 to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise to make unavailable or deny
12 housing to any person, because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national
13 origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability.
14

15 (2) to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions or
16 privileges of sale or rental of housing, or in the provision of services or facilities
17 in connection therewith, because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national
18 origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability.
19

20 (3) to make, print or publish, or cause to be made, printed or published
21 any notice, statement or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of
22 housing, that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race,
23 color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age,
24 sexual orientation or disability, or an intention to make any such preference,
25 limitation or discrimination.
26

27 (4) to represent to any person because of race, color, sex, religion,
28 ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or
29 disability, that any housing is not available for inspection, sale or rental, when the
30 housing is in fact so available.
31

32 (5) for profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or not
33 sell, or to rent or not rent any housing by representations regarding the entry or
34 prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular
35 race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status,
36 age, sexual orientation or disability.
37

38 (6) except in connection with a written affirmative action plan, to make
39 an oral inquiry or to use a written inquiry or form of application or photograph,
40 as a condition of the transaction in connection with the sale or rental of housing
41 that elicits or attempts to elicit information concerning race, color, sex, religion,
42 ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or
43 disability.
44

45 (7) to discriminate in the sale or rental of, or to otherwise make
46 unavailable or deny, housing to any buyer or renter because of a disability of the

1 buyer or renter, of a person residing in or intending to reside in the housing after
2 it is sold, rented or made available, or of any person associated with the buyer or
3 renter.
4

5 (8) to discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or
6 privileges of sale or rental of housing, or in the provision of services or facilities
7 in connection with such housing, because of a disability of the person, of a
8 person residing in or intending to reside in the housing after it is sold, rented or
9 made available, or of any person associated with the person.
10

11 (9) for purposes of sub-subsections (7) and (8), discrimination shall
12 include:
13

14 a. a refusal to permit, at the expense of a person with a disability,
15 reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by such
16 person if such modifications are necessary to afford such person full enjoyment
17 of the premises;
18

19 b. a refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies,
20 practices or services, when such accommodations are necessary to afford a
21 person with a disability equal opportunity to use and enjoy housing; or
22

23 c. in connection with the design and construction of covered multifamily
24 housing, as defined in Virginia or federal law, for initial occupancy after April 1,
25 1991, a failure to design and construct the housing in such a manner that:
26

27 (i) the public use and common use portions of the housing are readily
28 accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities;
29

30 (ii) all the doors designed to allow passage into and within all premises
31 within the housing are sufficiently wide to allow passage by persons with
32 disabilities in wheelchairs; and
33

34 (iii) all premises within the housing contain an accessible route into and
35 through the housing, light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other
36 environmental controls in accessible locations, reinforcements in bathroom walls
37 to allow later installation of grab bars and usable kitchens and bathrooms such
38 that an individual in a wheelchair can maneuver about the space.
39

40 (10) Nothing in subsubsections (7), (8) and (9) requires that housing be
41 made available to an individual whose tenancy would constitute a direct threat to
42 the health or safety of others or would result in substantial physical damage to the
43 property of others.
44

1 (11) For purposes of this subsection, discrimination because of or on the
2 basis of age shall mean discrimination against a person who is 55 years of age or
3 older because of or on the basis of that person's age.
4

5 (b) *Unlawful housing practices—financing.*
6

7 (1) a. It shall be unlawful for any lending institution to deny a loan or
8 other financial assistance to a person applying therefor for the purpose of
9 purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing or maintaining housing, or to
10 discriminate against him or her in the fixing of the amount, interest rate, duration
11 or other terms or conditions of the loan or other financial assistance because of
12 the race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial
13 status, age, sexual orientation or disability of such person.
14

15 b. It shall also be unlawful for any lending institution to deny a loan or
16 other financial assistance because of the race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
17 national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability
18 of the present or prospective owners, lessees, tenants or occupants of the housing
19 in relation to which the loan or other financial assistance is to be made or given.
20

21 c. It shall also be unlawful for any lending institution to deny such a loan
22 or other financial assistance to any person because of the race, color, sex,
23 religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual
24 orientation or disability of any person associated with such person in connection
25 with the loan or other financial assistance or the purposes of the loan or other
26 financial assistance.
27

28 (2) It shall also be unlawful for any bank, building and loan association,
29 insurance company or other corporation, association, firm or enterprise whose
30 business consists in whole or in part in the making of commercial real estate
31 loans, to discriminate against any person applying for a loan or other financial
32 assistance, the proceeds of which are to be used for the purchase, construction,
33 improvement, repair or maintenance of housing by:
34

35 a. denying a loan or other financial assistance because of the race, color,
36 sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual
37 orientation or disability of the residents of the neighborhood in which the
38 housing is located; or
39

40 b. discriminating in fixing of the amount, interest rate, duration or other
41 terms or conditions of a loan or other financial assistance, because of the race,
42 color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age,
43 sexual orientation or disability of the residents of the neighborhood in which the
44 housing is located.
45
46

1 c. *Unlawful housing practices--brokerage services.*
2

3 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to deny any person access to or
4 membership or participation in any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers'
5 organization or other service, organization or facility relating to the business of
6 selling or renting housing, or to discriminate against any person in the terms or
7 conditions of such access, membership or participation, on account of race, color,
8 sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual
9 orientation or disability of such persons.
10

11 (2) It shall be unlawful for any real estate broker or salesperson or other
12 person in the business of selling or renting housing to solicit the sale or rental of
13 housing or discourage the purchase or rental of housing by representations
14 regarding the existing or potential proximity to real property owned, used or
15 occupied by a person or persons of a particular race, color, sex, ancestry, national
16 origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability.
17

18 (d) *Unlawful housing practices--restrictive covenants, as defined.*
19

20 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person who prepares or supervises the
21 preparation of any deed, mortgage, deed of trust, lease or contract affecting title
22 to or any interest in land or housing in the eCity willfully and knowingly to
23 include therein any restrictive covenant that discriminates on the basis of race,
24 color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status, age, sexual
25 orientation or disability, except that nothing in this subsection shall be construed
26 to prohibit any person from conveying, or preparing any legal document for any
27 conveyance of housing or land to a religious organization for use only by
28 members of such religious organization.
29

30 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person who prepares or supervises the
31 preparation of any deed, mortgage, deed of trust, lease or contract affecting title
32 to or any interest in land or housing in the eCity, wherein any restrictive covenant
33 prohibited by subsection (1) above is incorporated by reference to another
34 document or instrument, to fail to include therein a statement that such restrictive
35 covenant is invalid and unenforceable.
36

37 (3) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, is
38 hereby authorized and directed:
39

40 a. to post in a conspicuous location in the clerk's office and in the land
41 record room the following notice printed in 14-point type:
42

43 "It is a violation of the Human Rights Code of the City of Alexandria,
44 Virginia, for any person to include any provision in a deed, mortgage,
45 deed of trust, lease or contract affecting title or any interest in land which
46 purports to restrict or affect on the basis of race, color, sex, religion,

ancestry, national origin, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability the holding, occupancy or transfer of any interest in land, and any such provisions are invalid and unenforceable."

b. when a copy of any deed, mortgage, deed of trust, lease or contract affecting title or interest in land or housing recorded in the clerk's office is requested, to affix to such copy a statement that any provision contained in such legal instrument which purports to restrict or affect the holding, occupancy, ownership, rental, lease or transfer of any interest on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability is invalid or unenforceable.

(e) *Exemptions and exceptions.*

(1) Nothing in section 12-4-4 shall prohibit a religious organization, association or society, or any nonprofit charitable or educational institution or organization operated, supervised or controlled by or in conjunction with a religious organization, association or society, from limiting or from advertising the sale, rental or occupancy of housing which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose to persons of the same religion, or from giving preference to such persons. Nor shall anything in this chapter prohibit a private club not in fact open to the public, which as an incident to its primary purpose or purposes provides lodgings which it owns or operates for other than a commercial purpose, from limiting the rental or occupancy of such lodgings to its members or from giving preference to its members.

(2) Nothing in section 12-4-4 other than subsection (3) of subsection (a) shall apply to:

a. any single-family house sold or rented by an owner; provided, that the private individual owner does not own more than three such single-family houses at any one time; provided further, that in the case of the sale of any such single-family house by a private individual owner not residing in such house at the time of such sale or who was not the most recent resident of such house prior to such sale, the exemption granted by this subsection shall apply only with respect to one such sale within any 24-month period; provided further, that such bona fide private individual owner does not own any interest in, nor is there owned or reserved on his or her behalf, under any express or voluntary agreement, title to or any rights to all or a portion of the proceeds from the sale or rental of more than three single-family houses at any one time; provided further, that the owner sells or rents the following:

1. without the use in any manner of the sales or rental facilities or the sales or rental services of any real estate broker, agent or sales person, or of such facilities or services of any person in the business of selling or renting housing,

1 or of any employee or agency of any such broker, agent, salesperson or person,
2 and
3

4 2. without the publication, posting or mailing, after notice, of any
5 advertisement or written notice in violation of subsection (3) of subsection (a) of
6 this section; but nothing in this proviso shall prohibit the use of attorneys, escrow
7 agents, abstractors, title companies and other such professional assistance as
8 necessary to perfect or transfer the title, or
9

10 b. rooms or units in housing containing living quarters occupied or
11 intended to be occupied by no more than four families living independently of
12 each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies one of the living
13 quarters as his or her residence, provided that the owner sells or rents the rooms
14 or units:
15

16 1. without the use in any manner of the sales or rental facilities or the
17 sales or rental services of any real estate broker, agent or salesperson, or of such
18 facilities or services of any person in the business of selling or renting housing,
19 or of any employee or agency of any such broker, agent, salesperson or person,
20 and
21

22 2. without the publication, posting or mailing, after notice, of any
23 advertisement or written notice in violation of subsection (3) of subsection (a) of
24 this section, but nothing in this proviso shall prohibit the use of attorneys, escrow
25 agents, abstractors, title companies and other professional assistance as necessary
26 to perfect or transfer the title.
27

28 For the purposes of this subsection (e)(2), a person shall be deemed to be
29 in the business of selling or renting housing if:
30

31 a. he or she has, within the preceding 12 months, participated as
32 principal, other than in the sale of his or her own personal residence, in providing
33 sales or rental facilities or sales or rental services in three or more transactions
34 involving the sale or rental of any housing or any interest therein;
35

36 b. he or she has, within the preceding 12 months, participated as agent,
37 other than in the sale of his or her own personal residence, in providing the sales
38 or rental facilities or sales or rental services in two or more transactions involving
39 the sale or rental of any housing or any interest therein; or
40

41 c. he or she is the owner of any housing designed or intended for
42 occupancy by, or occupied by, five or more families.
43

44 (3) Nothing in section 12-4-4 shall be construed to:
45

1 a. bar any person from restricting sales, rentals, leases or occupancy, or
2 from giving preference, to persons of a given age for bona fide housing intended
3 solely for the elderly or bona fide housing intended solely for minors;
4

5 b. make it an unlawful act to require that a person have legal capacity to
6 enter into a contract or lease;
7

8 c. prohibit any private, state-owned or state-supported educational
9 institution, hospital, nursing home, or religious or correctional institution from
10 requiring that persons of both sexes not occupy any single-family residence or
11 any room or unit in dwellings or other buildings which it owns or operates or that
12 persons of both sexes not utilize any rest room in said room or unit in dwellings
13 or other buildings which it owns or operates;
14

15 ~~d. bar any person from refusing to sell or rent any housing to unmarried~~
16 ~~individuals cohabiting contrary to law;~~
17

18 ed. bar any person from refusing a loan or other financial assistance to
19 any person whose life expectancy, according to generally accepted mortality
20 tables, is less than the term for which the loan is requested;
21

22 ~~f.e.~~ forbid distinctions based on the inability to fulfill the terms or
23 conditions including financial obligations of any such lease, contract of sale,
24 deed or mortgage.
25

26 (4) a. Nothing in section 12-4-4 regarding unlawful discrimination
27 because of familial status shall apply to housing for older persons.
28

29 b. As used in this section, "housing for older persons" means housing:
30

31 (i) provided under any state or federal program that is specifically
32 designed and operated to assist elderly persons (as defined in the state or federal
33 program); or
34

35 (ii) intended for, and solely occupied by, persons 62 years of age or
36 older; or
37

38 (iii) intended and operated for occupancy by at least one person 55 years
39 of age or older per unit.
40

41 c. The following factors will be considered in determining whether
42 housing qualifies as "housing for older persons";
43

44 (i) the housing contains significant facilities and services specifically
45 designed to meet the physical or social needs of older persons or, if the provision

1 of such facilities and services is not practicable, the housing is necessary to
2 provide important housing opportunities for older persons; and
3

4 (ii) 80 percent or more of the units are occupied by at least one person
5 55 years of age or older; and
6

7 (iii) the publication of and adherence to policies and procedures which
8 demonstrate an intent by the owner or manager to provide housing primarily for
9 persons 55 years of age or older.
10

11 d. Housing shall not fail to constitute "housing for older persons" by
12 reason of:
13

14 (i) persons residing in the housing as of February 23, 1991, who do not
15 meet the age requirements of subsections (4)a(ii) or (iii); provided, that new
16 occupants of such housing meet these age requirements; or
17

18 (ii) unoccupied units; provided, that such units are reserved for
19 occupancy by persons who meet these age requirements.
20

21 5. Nothing in section 12-4-4 prohibits conduct against a person because
22 such person has been convicted by any court of competent jurisdiction of the
23 illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance.
24

25 Section 4. That Section 12-4-5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
26 1981,as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
27 follows:
28

29 Sec. 12-4-5 Unlawful employment practices.
30

31 (a) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, it shall be unlawful:
32

33 (1) for any employer to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any person or
34 otherwise to discriminate against any person with respect to hiring, tenure,
35 compensation, promotion, discharge or any other terms, conditions or privileges directly
36 or indirectly related to employment because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
37 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability, when such person is a
38 qualified person with a disability;
39

40 (2) for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to establish,
41 announce or follow a policy of denying or limiting the employment, membership or
42 apprenticeship opportunities of any person on the basis of race, color, sex, religion,
43 ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability, when such
44 person is a qualified person with a disability;
45

1 (3) for any employer, labor organization, employment agency or any joint labor
2 management committee controlling apprentice training programs to deny to or withhold
3 from any person the right to be admitted to or to participate in a guidance program, an
4 apprenticeship training program, an on-the-job training program or any other
5 occupational training program because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national
6 origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability, when such person is a
7 qualified person with a disability;

8
9 (4) for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to publish or
10 circulate, or to cause to be published or circulated with intent to circumvent the spirit
11 and purpose of this section, any notice or advertisement relating to employment or
12 membership which indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race,
13 color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or
14 disability, when such person is a qualified person with a disability, or an intention to
15 make any such preference, limitation or discrimination;

16
17 (5) for any employment agency to fail or refuse to accept, register, classify
18 properly or refer for employment or otherwise to discriminate against any person
19 because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual
20 orientation or disability, when such person is a qualified person with a disability;

21
22 (6) for any labor organization to discriminate against any person in any way
23 which would deprive or limit his or her employment opportunities or otherwise
24 adversely affect his or her status as an applicant for employment or as an employee with
25 respect to hiring, seniority, tenure, referral, compensation, promotion, discharge or any
26 other terms, conditions or privileges directly or indirectly related to employment because
27 of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual
28 orientation or disability, when such person is a qualified person with a disability;

29
30 (7) for any employer, employment agency or labor organization to discriminate
31 against any person because he or she has opposed any practice forbidden by this section
32 or because he or she has made a complaint or testified or assisted in any manner in any
33 investigation or proceeding under this chapter relating to the provisions of this section;

34
35 (8) for any employer to deny any employment opportunity to a qualified person
36 with a disability who is an employee or applicant if the basis for the denial is the need to
37 make reasonable accommodations to the physical or mental limitations of the employee
38 or applicant.

39
40 (9) for purposes of subsections (a)(1) through (a)(6), discrimination because of
41 or on the basis of age shall mean discrimination against a person who is 40 years of age
42 or older because of or on the basis of that person's age.

43
44 (b) exceptions. Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall apply to:
45

1 (1) any type of employment, occupation, or position where the job involves a
2 bona fide occupational qualification requiring the employment of a person or persons of
3 a particular religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation
4 or physical or mental capabilities, where the qualification is reasonably necessary to the
5 normal operation of that business or enterprise;

6
7 (2) any employment practice based upon applicable laws or regulations
8 established by the United States or any agency thereof, the Commonwealth of Virginia,
9 or any political subdivision of the Commonwealth having jurisdiction in the City of
10 Alexandria;

11
12 (3) the observance of the terms of a bona fide seniority system or any bona fide
13 employee benefit plan such as a retirement, pension or insurance plan, which is not a
14 subterfuge to evade the purposes of this section, except that no such employee benefit
15 plan shall excuse the failure to hire any individual, and no such seniority system or
16 employee benefit plan shall require or permit the involuntary retirement of any
17 individual who is at least 40 years of age or older because of the age of such individual;

18
19 (4) agreements or contracts concerning contribution rates for employer or
20 employee for group insurance, when the contribution rate may be affected by marital
21 status or number of dependents;

22
23 (5) any employment agency providing services only to elderly persons or to
24 minors; provided, however, that no employment agency may discriminate on the basis of
25 race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation or
26 disability; and

27
28 (6) notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, it shall not be an
29 unlawful employment practice for an employer to apply different standards of
30 compensation, or different terms, conditions or privileges of employment pursuant to a
31 bona fide seniority or merit system, or a system which measures earnings by quantity or
32 quality of production or to employees who work in different locations, provided that
33 such differences are not the result of an intention to discriminate because of race, color,
34 sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or
35 disability, nor shall it be an unlawful employment practice for any employer to give and
36 to act upon the results of any professionally developed ability test provided that such
37 test, its administration or action upon the results is not designed, intended or used to
38 discriminate because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status,
39 age, sexual orientation or disability;

40
41 (c) Affirmative action employment program. The eCity ~~m~~Manager shall
42 establish an affirmative action employment program for the eCity and shall report to the
43 eCity eCouncil regarding the status of same annually.

44
45 Section 5. That Section 12-4-6 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
46 1981, as amended be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

1
2 Sec. 12-4-6 City contracts.
3

4 (a) Any contract of over \$10,000, except any contract for the sale, purchase or
5 rental of land, to which the eCity is a party shall include substantially the following
6 provisions:
7

8 "Employment Opportunity. The contractor hereby agrees:
9

10 "(1) Not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on
11 account of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age,
12 sexual orientation, disability, when such person is a qualified person with a
13 disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in
14 employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably
15 necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in
16 conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, notices
17 setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
18

19 "(2) To implement an affirmative action employment program as defined in section
20 12-4-3 of this chapter to ensure nondiscrimination in employment under guidelines
21 to be developed by the eCommission and approved by the eCity eCouncil.
22

23 "(3) To include in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on
24 behalf of the contractor the words "Equal Opportunity Employer" or a symbol,
25 approved by the eCommission, meaning same.
26

27 "(4) To notify each labor organization or representative of employees with which
28 said contractor is bound by a collective bargaining agreement or other contract of the
29 contractor's obligations pursuant to this equal employment opportunity clause.
30

31 "(5) To submit to the eCity ~~m~~Manager and the eCity's ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights
32 ~~administrator~~ Director, upon request, no more frequently than annually, regular
33 equal employment opportunity reports on a form to be prescribed by the eCity's
34 ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director with the approval of the eCity ~~m~~Manager,
35 except that the ~~administrator~~ Director may request more frequent special reports of
36 particular employers provided the eCommission has found such employers to have
37 violated any provision of this chapter.
38

39 "(6) Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal
40 law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting the
41 requirements of this subsection.
42

43 "(7) To make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental
44 limitations of an otherwise qualified person with a disability who is an applicant or
45 employee unless the contractor can demonstrate that the accommodation would
46 impose an undue hardship on the operation of its business.

1
2 "(8) That for the purpose of this section reasonable accommodation may include (i)
3 making facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by persons with
4 a disability and (ii) job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules,
5 acquisitions or modification of equipment or devices, the provision of readers or
6 interpreters and other similar actions.

7
8 "(9) That in determining whether an accommodation would impose an undue
9 hardship on the operation of the contractor's business, factors to be considered
10 include but are not limited to the following:

11
12 "a. the overall size of the contractor's business with respect to the number of
13 employees, the number and type of facilities and size of budget;

14
15 "b. the type of the contractor's operation, including the composition and structure
16 of the contractor's work force; and

17
18 "c. the nature and cost of the accommodation needed.

19
20 "(10) That it may not deny any employment opportunity to a qualified person with
21 a disability who is an employee or applicant if the basis for the denial is the need to
22 make reasonable accommodation to the physical or mental limitations of the
23 employee or applicant.

24
25 "(11) To include the provisions in subsections (1) through (10) of this clause in
26 every subcontract so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor.

27
28 "(12) That in the event of the contractor's noncompliance with any provision of this
29 equal employment opportunity clause, upon a finding of such noncompliance by the
30 eCity's ~~h~~Human ~~R~~ights eCommission and certification of such finding by the eCity
31 ~~m~~Manager, the eCity eCouncil may terminate or suspend or not renew, in whole or
32 in part, this contract."

33
34 (b) The ~~administrator~~ Director is hereby authorized to:

35
36 (1) review the performance of any contractor who has a contract with the eCity
37 with respect to the provisions of subsection (a) above;

38
39 (2) request equal employment opportunity reports, including but not limited to
40 statistical data, from any contractor pursuant to subsection (a)(5) above; and

41
42 (3) upon a finding of probable cause to believe a violation of any provision of
43 subsection (a) above has occurred, file a complaint with the Commission pursuant to
44 section 12-4-16 of this chapter.

45
46 (c) The Commission is hereby authorized to:

1
2 (1) review any complaint filed by the ~~administrator~~ Director pursuant to subsection
3 (b) above in accordance with procedures set forth in this chapter; and
4

5 (2) upon a finding of the eCommission that any contractor is in noncompliance
6 with the provisions of subsection (a) above, the eCommission shall report the
7 findings to the eCity ~~m~~Manager.
8

9 (d) The eCity ~~m~~Manager. If the eCity ~~m~~Manager certifies the finding to the City
10 Council the eCity ~~m~~Manager shall, unless eCity eCouncil directs otherwise,
11 terminate or suspend or not renew, in whole or in part, as appropriate, the
12 contractual relationship with the contractor; provided, however, that the city
13 manager may defer temporarily a suspension or termination if he or she finds that
14 the suspension or termination may disrupt or curtail a vital public service, or would
15 otherwise not be in the best interests of the city, in which case the eCity ~~m~~Manager
16 shall report his or her action to the City Council and indicate a date certain when the
17 relationship will be suspended or terminated, or when the practice complained about
18 will be remedied.
19

20 Section 6. That Section 12-4-7 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
21 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
22 follows:
23

24 Sec. 12-4-7 Health and social service practices.
25

26 (a) *Private health and social services practices.* It shall be unlawful for any private
27 health or social service agency:
28

29 (1) to discriminate against any person by refusing, denying or withholding from
30 him or her any of the services, programs, benefits, facilities or privileges of any
31 health and social program or service, or to discriminate in the quality of services
32 offered through such programs because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry,
33 national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability;
34

35 (2) to discriminate against any person, in the setting of rates or charges for any of
36 the services, programs, benefits, facilities or privileges of any agency because of
37 race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, sexual
38 orientation or disability; or
39

40 (3) to discriminate against any person by communicating, publishing, advertising
41 or representing that any of the services, programs, benefits, facilities or privileges of
42 any health or social service agency are withheld from or denied to any person
43 because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age,
44 sexual orientation or disability.
45

1 (b) *Exceptions.* Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall apply to any health
2 or social service or practice:

3
4 (1) that reasonably relates only to a particular sex, religion, national origin, marital
5 status, age, sexual orientation or disability;

6
7 (2) with respect to which sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, sexual
8 orientation or disability is usually and normally considered an essential qualification
9 or requirement for such service.

10
11 (c) *Public health and social services practices.* The Commission is hereby
12 authorized to conduct studies, hold hearings and review the policies and practices of
13 any public health and social service agency with respect to the provisions in
14 subsection (a) of this section. The Commission shall report its findings to the eCity
15 eCouncil and eCity ~~m~~Manager and may, at its discretion, enter into negotiations
16 with any such agency, other than a eCity agency, to rectify any discriminatory
17 policies or practices that may exist. In the case of a eCity agency, the Commission
18 may, at its discretion, develop with the eCity ~~m~~Manager a plan to rectify any
19 discriminatory policies or practices that may exist.

20
21 (d) *Public health or social service agencies.*

22
23 (1) No qualified person with a disability shall, because a public health or social
24 service agency has facilities which are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with a
25 disability, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in or otherwise
26 be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity provided by such
27 public health and social service agencies.

28
29 (2) Any existing public health or social service facility shall be made accessible to
30 persons with a disability by making structural changes or by other means such as
31 redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible buildings or alternate
32 sites, assignment of aides to persons with a disability, providing home visits or other
33 appropriate methods.

34
35 Section 7. That Section 12-4-10 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
36 1981, as amended , be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
37 follows:

38
39 Sec. 12-4-10 Education.

40
41 (a) Private education. It shall be unlawful for any private educational institution,
42 or its agents, employees or officers, on the basis of race, color, sex, ancestry,
43 national origin, sexual orientation or disability;

1 (1) to discriminate against any person with respect to the terms, conditions,
2 accommodations, advantages, facilities, benefits, privileges or services of that
3 institution;

4
5 (2) to make or use a written or oral inquiry or form of application for admission to
6 an educational institution that elicits or attempts to elicit information concerning
7 race, color or disability, except as required to obtain grants or other funds from a
8 public or private institution or agency;

9
10 (3) except in connection with a written affirmative action plan, to require, or cause
11 to be required, that a photograph of an applicant for admission to an educational
12 institution be submitted with any form of application for admission;

13
14 (4) to establish, make or follow a policy of denial or limitation of educational
15 opportunities;

16
17 (5) to permit potential employers to recruit students on its premises or to permit
18 the employers to use its placement facilities for referral of students for employment
19 or permit the employers to participate in any job-training or work-study program
20 operated by or in conjunction with the educational institution unless the potential
21 employer has submitted to the educational institution a statement certifying that the
22 employer is an equal opportunity employer;

23
24 (6) to deny to any member of its student body educational services or facilities
25 that are generally available to members of the opposite sex;

26
27 (7) to fail to provide services to persons with a disability which are provided to
28 persons without a disability;

29
30 (8) to fail to provide services to a person with a disability who meets the academic
31 and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in a postsecondary
32 and vocational education program or activity; or

33
34 (9) to subject any member of its faculty or staff to a discriminatory practice stated
35 as unlawful under subsections (1) through (8) of this subsection.

36
37 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to make unlawful
38 any private institution established exclusively for either all males or females or to
39 interfere with the exercise of genuinely held religious beliefs by educational
40 institutions organized for the primary purpose of preparing men and women for the
41 ordained ministry.

42
43 (c) Public education. The eCommission is hereby authorized to conduct studies,
44 hold hearings and review the policies and practices of any public educational
45 institution with respect to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin,
46 religion, sexual orientation or disability. The Commission shall report its findings

1 to the appropriate policy-making body and chief administrator of the public
2 educational institution (for instance the school board and superintendent of public
3 schools in the eCity or to the president of the Northern Virginia Community
4 College and the community college board or to the policy-making body and chief
5 administrator of any other public educational program) and may, at its discretion,
6 enter into negotiations with said policy-making body and chief Director to rectify
7 and any discriminatory policies or practices that may exist.
8

9 Section 8. That Section 12-4-12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
10 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
11 follows:
12

13 Sec. 12-4-12 Human ~~R~~ights eCommission--creation; composition.
14

15 For the purpose of making effective the provisions of this chapter, there is hereby
16 created a Commission of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, to be known as the "~~h~~Human
17 ~~R~~ights eCommission," herein referred to as the eCommission, which shall consist of 14
18 members, each of whom shall reside in the eCity at the time of appointment to the
19 eCommission and while serving on it. They also shall be as broadly representative of
20 residents of the eCity as is practicable. Of the 14 members, nine shall be citizens at large
21 and one each shall be members of The eEconomic eOpportunities cCommission, The
22 eCommission For ~~w~~Women, The ~~l~~Landlord-Tenant Relations Board, The Commission For
23 Persons With Disabilities and The Commission On Aging. All the members shall be
24 appointed by eCity eCouncil. The members representing the aforementioned eCity boards
25 and Commissions shall be nominated by the board or Commission each represents. Of the
26 at-large members first appointed, as decided by lot, three shall be appointed for a term of
27 one year, three for a term of two years and three for a term of three years. Thereafter, at-
28 large members shall be appointed for terms of three years each. Any vacancy shall be filled
29 by the City eCouncil for the unexpired portion of a term. Each member representing a board
30 or Commission shall serve coextensive with his or her term on the parent body, or until such
31 time as the parent body shall nominate and the eCity eCouncil shall appoint a replacement
32 from among the members of the parent body, but under no circumstances shall any member
33 serve on the Commission beyond his or her term on the parent body. Members shall serve
34 without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses, subject to availability
35 of funds. On the request of any board, Commission or committee of the eCity, the
36 Commission may invite a designated representative from such board, Commission or
37 committee to act as a participating observer at any meeting of the Commission other than a
38 hearing under sections 12-4-18 or 12-4-21 of this chapter. Also on request, the Commission
39 may provide agendas and minutes of any meeting and any other official document, except
40 for conciliation agreements, to any other public agency, board, Commission, committee or
41 the general public.
42

43 Section 9. That Section 12-4-13 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
44 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as
45 follows:
46

1 Sec. 12-4-13 Organization, meetings, secretary and chairperson of the Human Rights
2 Commission.

3
4 (a) All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public to the extent
5 required by state law and a full and impartial hearing shall be granted on all matters.
6 The Commission shall hold at least 10 monthly meetings during the calendar year.
7 Insofar as reasonably possible, all hearings shall be informal.

8
9 (b) The ~~e~~City ~~e~~Council shall designate a convener and the Commission shall elect
10 one of its members as chairperson, another of its members as vice-chairperson and
11 such other officers as the Commission may deem necessary. The Commission shall
12 designate a secretary among its members or staff as it sees fit. The secretary to the
13 Commission shall cause minutes of its proceedings to be kept and all findings and
14 decisions to be reduced to writing and entered as a matter of public record in the
15 Office of the ~~administrator~~ Director.

16
17 (c) All meetings of the Commission shall be held in facilities which are accessible
18 to persons with a disability and, where a person with a disability attends a meeting
19 and so requests in advance, the Commission shall make reading or interpretive
20 services available for the blind or deaf, as appropriate.

21
22 (d) In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this chapter,
23 the ~~e~~Commission may establish its own rules; provided these are not contrary to the
24 mandate or spirit of this chapter. The ~~e~~Commission shall annually prepare and
25 submit a budget to the ~~e~~City ~~m~~Manager.

26
27 Section 10. That Section 12-4-14 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
28 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
29 as follows:

30
31 Sec. 12-4-14 Human Rights ~~administrator~~ Director.

32
33 (a) There is hereby established the position of Human Rights ~~administrator~~
34 Director. The ~~e~~City ~~m~~Manager shall appoint a person to the position of ~~h~~Human
35 ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director, who shall be a member of the ~~e~~City ~~m~~Manager's
36 staff, upon consideration of the recommendations of the ~~e~~Commission with respect
37 to the appointment. The ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director shall report to the
38 ~~e~~City ~~m~~Manager and may be removed for cause by the ~~e~~City ~~m~~Manager.

39
40 (b) The ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director shall be responsible for carrying
41 out the policies of the ~~e~~Commission and performing the duties assigned to him or
42 her by this chapter, negotiating contracts or worksharing agreements with the Equal
43 Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Housing and Urban
44 Development or other appropriate federal or state agencies and performing the duties
45 assigned by these contracts and work sharing agreements. The ~~administrator~~
46 Director shall have the power and duty to make investigations of unlawful

1 discriminatory practices under this chapter, and to file complaints with the
2 eCommission when he or she has probable cause to believe that an unlawful
3 discriminatory practice has occurred. The ~~administrator~~ Director shall further have
4 the power and duty to attempt to conciliate any complaint of alleged unlawful
5 discrimination under this chapter where there is probable cause for the complaint.
6

7 Section 11. That Section 12-4-15 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
8 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
9 as follows:
10

11 Sec. 12-4-15 Powers and duties of the ~~hHuman~~ ~~rRights~~ eCommission.
12

13 (a) *Powers and duties.* The eCommission shall administer the provisions of this
14 chapter as stated above and shall have the following powers and duties:
15

16 (1) Receive complaints alleging actions or conduct that are unlawful under this
17 chapter, as well as grievances alleging other actions or conduct that constitute
18 discrimination where the complainant is only seeking the eCommission's good
19 offices to conciliate.
20

21 (2) Utilize methods of persuasion, conciliation and mediation or informal
22 ~~adjustment of~~ grievances; hold public hearings; and, in the case of complaints
23 alleging actions or conduct that are unlawful under this chapter, make findings of
24 fact, issue orders and make recommendations pursuant to section 12-4-21, and make
25 public the findings, orders and recommendations.
26

27 (3) Conduct studies and hold public hearings on discrimination against persons
28 with a physical or mental disability, in concert with the Commission on ~~disabled~~
29 ~~persons~~ Persons With Disabilities and the Alexandria ~~mental health and mental~~
30 ~~retardation~~ Community sServices bBoard, to explore local legislative proposals in
31 the areas of employment, credit, education, health and social services, public
32 accommodations and housing.
33

34 (4) Conduct studies and hold hearings on social conditions that may cause
35 discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin,
36 marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability that is prohibited
37 by this chapter. Gather and disseminate reliable information by issuing publications
38 and reports of studies and research relating to such discrimination.
39

40 (5) Institute and conduct educational and informational programs with wide sectors
41 of businesses, unions, professions, agencies and organizations to promote equal
42 rights and opportunities for all persons and to promote understanding among persons
43 and groups of different races, colors, sexes, religions, ancestries, national origins,
44 marital statuses, familial statuses, ages, sexual orientations or disabilities.
45

1 (6) Assist in developing, negotiating and reviewing voluntary fair housing
2 affirmative action agreements as mandated by the eCity eCouncil in resolution no.
3 355, adopted on November 26, 1974, and develop and review other voluntary
4 affirmative action programs.

5
6 (7) Review the eCity's affirmative action employment program and the
7 performance of the eCity government, its contractors and subcontractors in
8 employment policies and practices as they may relate to discrimination because of
9 race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age or disability.
10 The eCommission shall report its findings to the eCity mManager and eCity
11 eCouncil.

12
13 (8) Establish, administer or review programs at the request of the eCity eCouncil or
14 the eCity mManager and make reports on these programs to the eCity eCouncil and
15 eCity mManager.

16
17 (9) Conduct studies and hold public hearings on policies and practices of public
18 educational institutions with respect to discrimination on the basis of race, color,
19 sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation or disability that is
20 prohibited by this chapter, and of public health and social service agencies with
21 respect to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national
22 origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation or disability that is prohibited by this
23 chapter, and bring to the attention of the appropriate policy-making body and chief
24 administrator Director problems that require notice or action to resolve.

25
26 (10) Bring to the attention of the eCity mManager items that require eCity
27 mManager or eCity eCouncil notice or action to resolve.

28
29 (11) Conduct studies and hold public hearings on policies or practices that cause or
30 may be caused by a pattern or practice of discrimination.

31
32 (12) Render to eCity eCouncil and the eCity mManager annual written reports of
33 its activities under the provisions of this chapter along with such comments and
34 recommendations as it may choose to make.

35
36 (13) Cooperate with and render technical assistance to federal, state, local and other
37 public or private agencies, organizations and institutions which are formulating or
38 carrying on programs to prevent or eliminate the unlawful discriminatory practices
39 covered by the provisions of this chapter.

40
41 (14) With the approval of the eCity eCouncil, accept grants from federal, state,
42 local and other public or private agencies, organizations and institutions, including
43 but not limited to foundations, colleges and universities.

1 (15) Make use of uncompensated services of public agencies and private
2 organizations as may from time to time be offered and needed to perform advisory
3 and research duties.
4

5 (16) As far as it is practicable, the services, including advisory and consultative
6 services of all eCity departments, agencies, boards and eCommissions shall be made
7 available to the eCommission for the purpose of carrying out the functions, powers
8 and duties herein set forth, and with the approval of the eCity mManager, the heads
9 of such departments or agencies shall furnish to the eCommission any information
10 in the possession of the departments or agencies as is relevant to the duties of the
11 eCommission and which the eCommission, by written communication, may require.
12 This includes the use of counsel from the office of the eCity aAttorney to aid in the
13 conduct of its investigations and hearings.
14

15 (17) Establish panels of up to three members to conduct confidential hearings on
16 pending complaints that have been identified by the ~~administrator~~ Director. As to
17 such complaints, a panel may advise the ~~administrator~~ Director on whether (i)
18 probable cause exists to believe unlawful discrimination has occurred, (ii) the time
19 for the investigation should be extended, (iii) a public hearing should be scheduled,
20 (iv) subpoenas should be obtained, and (v) a plan of settlement should be proposed
21 to the parties.
22

23 (b) *Subpoenas.* In the course of any investigation of a complaint under this chapter
24 or in any hearing held by the Commission in accordance with section 12-4-18 or
25 section 12-4-21 of this chapter, the Commission, by majority vote of those members
26 present, may apply to the appropriate circuit court for a subpoena or subpoena duces
27 tecum to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of
28 evidence; provided, that, at the time it votes to apply to the court, the eCommission
29 shall have grounds to believe that unlawful discrimination has occurred, shall have
30 made a good faith effort to obtain the data and other information necessary to
31 determine whether such discrimination has occurred, and shall have been unable to
32 obtain such data and information on a voluntary basis. At least five days prior to
33 applying for a subpoena, the eCommission shall notify the eCity mManager of its
34 intention to apply for the subpoena and its reasons for doing so. The judge of the
35 circuit court, upon good cause shown, may cause the subpoena to be issued. Any
36 person failing to comply with such subpoena shall be subject to punishment for
37 contempt by the court issuing the subpoena.
38

39 c) *Funds.* In the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties the
40 eCommission shall not expend funds in excess of those appropriated to it by the
41 eCity eCouncil and those received by it from approved grants.
42

43 Section 12. That Section 12-4-16 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
44 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
45 as follows:
46

1 Sec. 12-4-16 Complaints generally.

2
3 (a) Complaints under this chapter may be filed only by (i) any person claiming to
4 have been injured by actions or conduct that are unlawful under this chapter (a
5 "complainant"), or (ii) the ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director where the
6 ~~administrator~~ Director has probable cause to believe that one or more persons have
7 been the subject of an unlawful discriminatory practice under this chapter. All
8 complaints shall be made in writing, be under oath or affirmation and be
9 accompanied by an affidavit. An additional copy shall be made for each respondent,
10 if more than one. All complaints shall be on a form furnished by the ~~h~~Human
11 ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director, and shall state the name and address of each
12 respondent, the address of the person filing the complaint (the complainant or the
13 ~~administrator~~ Director), the date of the alleged offense and the alleged facts
14 surrounding the acts complained of. The ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director
15 shall forthwith transmit a copy of the complaint to each respondent by certified mail,
16 return receipt requested, with another copy by ordinary mail. Each complaint shall
17 be held in confidence by the ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights ~~administrator~~ Director unless or until
18 the complainant or the ~~administrator~~ Director, as the case may be, and the
19 respondent consent to its being made public, or until the time a hearing procedure
20 such as described in section 12-4-21 has begun. A complaint must be filed within
21 300 days after the date of the actions or conduct alleged to be in violation of this
22 chapter, except that a complaint alleging housing discrimination may be filed within
23 365 days of the alleged violation.

24
25 (b) Where a complainant or respondent in a case filed with the ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights
26 ~~administrator~~ Director is a person with a disability, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall
27 provide reader services if blind, interpreter services if deaf, or other special services
28 to persons with a disability as are appropriate.

29
30 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent any member of the ~~h~~Human ~~r~~Rights
31 ~~e~~Commission from filing a complaint if he or she claims himself or herself to be the
32 subject of a discriminatory practice or to be a person aggrieved under this section.
33 Such person shall disqualify himself or herself as a member of the ~~e~~Commission
34 when his or her complaint is before the ~~e~~Commission for a public hearing and for
35 disposition.

36
37 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any person from filing a
38 grievance with the ~~e~~Commission which alleges actions or conduct that is
39 discriminatory and which seeks the ~~e~~Commission's good offices to conciliate, or to
40 prevent the ~~e~~Commission from seeking to conciliate such grievances, pursuant to
41 section 12-4-15(a)(1).

42
43 Section 13. That Section 12-4-17 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
44 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
45 as follows:
46

1 Sec. 12-4-17 Investigation and probable cause of complaint filed by a complainant.

2
3 (a) Upon the filing of a complaint by a complainant, the ~~administrator~~ Director
4 shall undertake an investigation, which shall be completed within 180 days, unless
5 additional time is allowed by the eCommission, from the date of the filing of a
6 complaint, to determine whether there is probable cause for the complaint. At any
7 time following the filing of a complaint, the ~~administrator~~ Director may convene a
8 conference, over which the ~~administrator~~ Director or her designee shall preside, in
9 order to mediate the issues in dispute between the parties. The ~~administrator~~ Director
10 Director may also convene a confidential hearing, over which a panel of
11 eCommission members shall preside, in order to obtain advice from the panel in one
12 or more of the areas set forth in section 12-4-15(a)(17). Upon completion of the
13 investigation, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall issue a written decision containing the
14 ~~administrator's~~ Director's determination as to whether there is probable cause for the
15 complaint. The ~~administrator~~ Director shall send a copy of this written decision to
16 the complainant person and the respondent by certified and ordinary mail.

17
18 (b) If the ~~administrator~~ Director determines that there is probable cause for a
19 complaint filed by a complainant, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall immediately
20 endeavor to eliminate the unlawful discriminatory practice complained of in
21 accordance with section 12-4-18.

22
23 (c) If the ~~administrator~~ Director determines that there is no probable cause for a
24 complaint filed by a complainant, that determination shall constitute the final
25 decision of the eCommission which shall not be subject to judicial review.

26
27 Section 14. That Section 12-4-18 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
28 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
29 as follows:

30
31 Sec. 12-4-18 Conciliation; breach of conciliation agreement; procedure; hearing;
32 decision.

33
34 (a) Upon a determination by the ~~administrator~~ Director that there is probable cause
35 for the complaint filed by a complainant, or upon the filing of a complaint by the
36 ~~administrator~~ Director, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall immediately endeavor to
37 eliminate the unlawful actions or conduct or the unlawful discriminatory practice
38 complained of, upon terms that are agreeable to the parties. The ~~administrator's~~
39 Director's effort initially shall consist of conciliation and persuasion. Conferences
40 and other efforts at conciliation and persuasion shall be informal and may be
41 conducted by the ~~administrator~~ Director or any member of his or her staff so
42 designated. Nothing said or done during or as part of the conciliation efforts shall be
43 made public or used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding instituted under this
44 chapter unless each of the interested parties agrees thereto in writing.

1 (b) If conciliation succeeds, the terms of the conciliation shall be reduced to writing
2 and signed by or on behalf of the parties and, where the complaint was filed by a
3 complainant, also by the ~~administrator~~ Director. The ~~administrator~~ Director shall
4 then notify the eCommission through its chairperson that a conciliation agreement
5 has been entered into by the parties. Conciliation agreements may be made public
6 but any public disclosure shall not reveal the identities of the parties involved,
7 except with the consent of all parties.
8

9 (c) Any conciliation agreement established pursuant to this section shall provide
10 that all complaints filed by the same complainant that are pending before the
11 Commission and that arise out of the same events or transactions giving rise to the
12 complaint covered in the agreement shall terminate and shall not be revived by the
13 complainant so long as the agreement is in force. The signing of an agreement shall
14 not constitute an admission on the part of any signatory of a violation of any
15 provision of this chapter or any other provision of law.
16

17 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the ~~administrator~~ Director from
18 continuing his or her efforts to reach conciliation at any time while a complaint is
19 pending before the eCommission.
20

21 (e) In the event the ~~administrator~~ Director has reason to believe that a party to a
22 conciliation agreement entered into pursuant to this section has breached any
23 provision of the agreement, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall promptly ~~so~~ notify the
24 eCommission. The eCommission shall promptly schedule a public hearing to
25 determine if the agreement has been breached. Notice of the time and place of
26 hearing shall be mailed by certified mail, with a copy by ordinary mail, to each
27 respondent and complainant no later than two weeks prior to the date of hearing.
28 The eCommission shall schedule for hearing all respondents who signed the
29 agreement, but may upon request or its own motion schedule separate hearings for
30 each respondent. Any party alleging a breach of the agreement shall appear at the
31 hearing in person and may be accompanied by an attorney. Any party who is alleged
32 to have violated the agreement may appear at the hearing in person or by a duly
33 authorized representative, including an attorney. Each party may present testimony
34 and evidence. The right to cross-examine witnesses shall be preserved. The
35 ~~administrator~~ Director shall cause a qualified reporter or stenographer to be present
36 throughout the hearing, or shall provide a voice recording device, and shall record
37 the proceedings. Upon direction of the eCommission, the proceedings shall be
38 transcribed. Any transcription shall be public and open to inspection by any person.
39 All testimony shall be given under oath administered by the chairperson or his or her
40 representative.
41

42 (f) If upon all the evidence at the hearing the Commission determines that the
43 conciliation agreement has not been breached, the Commission shall not later than
44 14 days following the conclusion of the hearing render and issue a written decision
45 containing its determination and the facts upon which the determination is based,
46 cause the decision to be mailed by certified and ordinary mail to each respondent

1 and complainant, announce and make public its determination, and cause the
2 determination to be recorded in the minutes of its proceedings. The case shall then
3 be closed, and no further action shall be taken by the Commission on the instant
4 allegation of the breach of the conciliation agreement, and the agreement shall
5 remain in effect.
6

7 (g) If upon all the evidence at the hearing the Commission determines that the
8 conciliation agreement has been breached, the Commission may refer the matter
9 back to the ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director for further efforts toward
10 conciliation or may, after consultation with the ~~eCity aAttorney~~, refer the matter to
11 the ~~eCity aAttorney~~ and recommend appropriate legal action to enforce the
12 agreement.
13

14 (h) The ~~eCity aAttorney~~, upon receipt of a recommendation from the ~~eCommission~~,
15 including a recommendation under subsection (g) of this section, may initiate
16 appropriate legal action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce a conciliation
17 agreement.
18

19 Section 15. That Section 12-4-19 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
20 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
21 as follows:
22

23 Sec. 12-4-19 Amendments to complaints.
24

25 Complaints may be reasonably and fairly amended at any time prior to the fourteenth
26 calendar day before the date of a hearing held pursuant to section 12-4-21. Amendments
27 must also be under oath, in writing and accompanied by an affidavit and filed with the
28 ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director. The ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director shall
29 send a copy of any amendment to each respondent by certified mail, with another copy by
30 ordinary mail.
31

32 Section 16. That Section 12-4-20 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
33 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
34 as follows:
35

36 Sec. 12-4-20 Answers to complaints.
37

38 Each respondent may file with the ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director an answer
39 at any time prior to the seventh calendar day before the date of a hearing held pursuant to
40 section 12-4-21, provided it be under oath, in writing and accompanied by an affidavit.
41 Answers may also be reasonably and fairly amended any time prior to the deadline for filing
42 answers, if under oath, in writing, accompanied by an affidavit and filed with the ~~hHuman~~
43 ~~rRights administrator~~ Director. The ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director shall send a
44 copy of any amendment to the complainant by certified mail, with another copy by ordinary
45 mail.
46

1 Section 17. That Section 12-4-21 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
2 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

3
4 Sec. 12-4-21 Hearings; decisions.

5
6 (a) Before the eCommission can hold a hearing or render a decision under this
7 section relating to a violation of this chapter, it is necessary that:

8
9 (1) a complaint shall have been filed under section 12-4-16 alleging the violation;

10
11 (2) a determination shall have been made under this chapter that probable cause
12 exists for the complaint; and

13
14 (3) the applicable conciliation provisions of this chapter relating to the complaint
15 shall have been complied with.

16
17 (b) In the event that a signed conciliation agreement is not reached within 30 days
18 from the determination of probable cause on a complaint filed by a complainant, or
19 within 30 days of the filing of a complaint by the ~~administrator~~ Director, or within
20 such additional time as the eCommission may allow, the ~~administrator~~ Director shall
21 promptly notify the eCommission, and the eCommission shall thereupon schedule a
22 public hearing as soon as possible to determine if a violation of this chapter has been
23 committed. The eCommission shall prior to any hearing verify that each party to the
24 proceeding has received a copy of the complaint and any amendments thereto.
25 Notice of the time and place of hearing shall be mailed by certified mail, with a copy
26 by ordinary mail, to each respondent and complainant no later than two weeks prior
27 to the date of the hearing. In cases in which there is more than one respondent, the
28 eCommission shall schedule a hearing for all respondents named in the complaint,
29 but may upon request or on its own motion schedule separate hearings for each
30 respondent. Complainants shall appear at the hearing in person and may be
31 accompanied by an attorney. Each party respondent may appear at the hearing in
32 person or by a duly authorized representative including an attorney. Each party may
33 present testimony and evidence. Each party shall have the right to cross-examine.
34 The ~~hHuman rRights administrator~~ Director shall cause a qualified reporter or
35 stenographer to be present throughout the hearing or shall provide a voice recording
36 device, and shall record the proceedings. Upon direction of the Commission, part or
37 all of the proceedings shall be transcribed. Any transcription shall be public and
38 open to inspection by any person. All testimony shall be taken under oath
39 administered by the chairperson or his or her representative.

40
41 (c) Within 30 days of the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commission shall
42 determine whether the respondent has violated any provision of this chapter, shall
43 announce in public the determination it has reached, and shall cause the
44 determination to be recorded in the minutes of its proceedings.
45

1 (d) If the eCommission determines, upon ~~the~~ a preponderance of the evidence, that
2 the respondent has violated any provision of this chapter, the Commission shall:

3
4 (1) not later than 30 days after announcing its determination, issue a written
5 decision containing:

6
7 (i) its determination;

8
9 (ii) the facts upon which the determination is based;

10
11 (iii) an order requiring the respondent to undertake specified actions designed to
12 bring respondent into compliance with this chapter and stating the date or dates by
13 which the respondent shall demonstrate to the eCommission that it has undertaken
14 these actions;

15
16 (iv) recommendations, if any, regarding the relief, ~~including but not limited to~~
17 ~~compensatory damages~~, that the respondent should provide any complainant and/or
18 other persons injured by respondent's violation of this chapter, and the date or dates
19 by which the respondent shall demonstrate to the eCommission that it has
20 implemented these recommendations; and

21
22 (v) ~~(iv)~~ recommendations, if any, to the eCity manager regarding the levying of
23 civil penalties against the respondent under section 12-4-24.1.

24
25 (2) cause a copy of its decision to be served on each respondent and complainant,
26 by certified mail, with a copy by ordinary mail.

27
28 (3) designate appropriate parts of the hearing to be transcribed for the public record
29 at the cost of the eCity.

30
31 (4) permit the complainant or each respondent to obtain copies of any part or all of
32 the transcript of the proceedings at his or her cost. For good cause, the Commission
33 may waive the requirement that the complainant or respondent must pay for the
34 transcripts.

35
36 (e) If the Commission determines, upon the preponderance of the evidence, that the
37 respondent has not violated any provision of this chapter, the Commission shall, not
38 later than 30 days after announcing its determination, issue a written decision
39 containing its determination and the facts upon which the determination is based,
40 and shall cause its decision to be served on each respondent and complainant by
41 certified mail, with a copy by ordinary mail. The case shall then be closed and no
42 further action shall be taken by the Commission in the matter.

43
44 Section 18. That Section 12-4-22 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
45 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:
46

1 Sec. 12-4-22 Interlocutory relief.

2
3 If, at any time after a complaint has been filed, the Commission believes that
4 appropriate civil action to preserve the status quo or to prevent irreparable harm appears
5 advisable, the Commission may after consultation with the eCity aAttorney or his or her
6 designee, certify the matter to the eCity aAttorney to petition a court of competent
7 jurisdiction for injunctive relief.
8

9 Section 19. That Section 12-4-23 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
10 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
11 as follows:
12

13 Sec. 12-4-23 Judicial review.
14

15 (a) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Commission entered pursuant to
16 section 12-4-18(f) or 12-4-21 may have the decision reviewed by a court of
17 competent jurisdiction. A review proceedings shall be instituted by filing with the
18 court a petition for review naming the Commission as respondent. A copy of the
19 petition shall be served upon the eCity aAttorney, who shall represent the
20 Commission in the review proceeding. No petition for review may be filed more
21 than 30 days after the date of service of the decision of which review is sought.
22

23 (b) The court, on motion of the petitioner, may issue a writ of certiorari requiring
24 the agency to transmit the record of the proceeding before the Commission on or
25 before a certain date.
26

27 (c) The court, sitting without a jury, shall hear the appeal on the record transmitted
28 by the Commission and any additional evidence as may be necessary to resolve any
29 controversy as to the correctness of the record. The court, in its discretion, may
30 receive such other evidence as the ends of justice require.
31

32 (d) The court may affirm the decision of the Commission or remand the case for
33 further proceedings; or it may reverse or modify the decision if the substantial rights
34 of the petitioner have been prejudiced because the determination, findings of fact or
35 conclusions of law set out in the Commission's decision are:
36

37 (1) in violation of constitutional provisions;
38

39 (2) in excess of legal authority or jurisdiction of the Commission;
40

41 (3) made upon unlawful procedure;
42

43 (4) affected by other error of law;
44

45 (5) unsupported by the evidence on the record considered as a whole; or
46

1 (6) arbitrary, capricious, or an abuse of discretion.

2
3 (e) The filing of a petition shall not operate to stay an application to the court under
4 section 12-4-24 for the enforcement of the order. If an application has been made to
5 the court for enforcement of the order, the petitioner, at any time after the filing of
6 his or her petition, may move the court for a stay of enforcement. The motion shall
7 be made after notice to the Commission, and a stay pending the review shall be
8 granted unless it appears to the court that immediate enforcement of the order is
9 essential to the public health or safety. In the order granting a stay, the court may
10 make any provision required to serve the ends of justice.

11
12 Section 20. That Section 12-4-24 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
13 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read
14 as follows:

15
16 Sec. 12-4-24 Judicial action to enforce Commission decision.

17
18 (a) If a person who is a respondent in a proceeding before the Commission fails to
19 comply with an order issued by the Commission pursuant to section 12-4-21(d)(iii),
20 the Commission may, after consulting with and receiving the approval of the eCity
21 aAttorney, bring an appropriate action, through the city attorney, in any court of
22 competent jurisdiction to secure a judicial order requiring the person to comply with
23 the Commission's order or otherwise to come into compliance with the provisions of
24 this chapter.

25
26 (b) If a person who is a respondent in a proceeding before the Commission fails to
27 comply with recommendations issued by the Commission pursuant to section 12-4-
28 21(d)(iv), the Commission, after consulting with and receiving a recommendation
29 from the City Attorney and thereafter receiving authorization from the City Council,
30 may bring an appropriate action, through the City Attorney, in any court of
31 competent jurisdiction to secure a judicial order or judgment requiring the person to
32 provide appropriate relief to any complainant in said proceeding, and/or any other
33 individual, who has been injured as a result of the person's violation of this chapter.

34
35 Section 21. That Section 12-4-24.1 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
36 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
37 as follows:

38
39 Sec. 12-4-24.1 Civil penalty.

40
41 The violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a class one civil violation, and
42 any person who commits, permits, assists in or attempts, whether by act or omission, such a
43 violation shall be liable for a civil penalty. The rules applicable to, and the procedures for
44 the levying of, such a civil penalty shall be those set out in section 1-1-11 of this code;
45 provided, that notice of a civil violation of this chapter may be issued only by the eCity

1 ~~m~~Manager and only following a recommendation made by the eCommission under section
2 12-4-21(d)(v).
3

4 Section 22. That Section 12-4-27 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
5 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
6 as follows:.
7

8 Sec. 12-4-27 Advisory opinions.
9

10 To terminate a controversy or to remove uncertainty, upon the request of the
11 ~~administrator~~ Director or any person, the eCommission, in its discretion may issue an
12 advisory opinion declaring that, upon the facts presented, a particular practice, program or
13 regulation does not violate this chapter. Such opinions shall be advisory only and shall not
14 preclude the eCommission from making a different determination in processing a formal
15 complaint.
16

17 Section 23. That Section 12-4-28 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981,
18 as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:
19 Sec. 12-4-28 Forms.
20

21 The eCity aAttorney, at the request of the eCommission or the ~~administrator~~ Director
22 or on his or her own initiative, shall prepare the forms recognized for the enforcement of
23 this chapter.
24

25 Section 14. That Section 12-4-29 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981,
26 as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:
27

28 Sec. 12-4-29 Conditions under which eCity aAttorney not to represent eCommission,
29 ~~administrator~~ Director.
30

31 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of this chapter, the eCity aAttorney shall
32 not represent either the eCommission or the ~~administrator~~ Director in any matter or
33 proceeding in which the eCity or any department, office or agency of the City is a
34 respondent. In this event, the eCommission and the ~~administrator~~ Director may consult with
35 and retain a private attorney to provide the services that the City Attorney would ordinarily
36 provide the eCommission and ~~administrator~~ Director.
37

38 Section 15. That Section 12-4-30 of The Code of the City of Alexandria,
39 Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read
40 as follows:
41

42 Sec. 12-4-30 Severability.
43

44 The provisions of this chapter are severable and, if any section, provision or part of
45 the chapter is held, for any reason, invalid or inapplicable to any person or circumstance,
46 such invalidity or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections,

1 provisions or parts of this chapter, or their application to any other person or circumstance.
2 It is hereby declared to be the intent of the eCity eCouncil that this chapter would have been
3 adopted even if the section, provision or part of the chapter declared invalid had not been
4 included herein, or if the person or circumstance to which the section, provision or part is
5 declared inapplicable had been specifically exempted from the chapter.

6
7 Section 16. That this ordinance shall become effective at the time and on the
8 date of final passage.

9
10 WILLIAM D. EUILLE
11 Mayor

12
13 Introduction: 6/10/08
14 First Reading: 6/10/08
15 Publication:
16 Public Hearing:
17 Second Reading:
18 Final Passage:

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