ORDINANCE NO. 300.779

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AMENDING CHAPTER IV OF TITLE A OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE RELATED TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Summary

This ordinance amends sections, 50, 51, 53, 54 and 55 of Division A6 relating to the declaration of policy, enacting a term limit, revising the Commission’s powers and duties and clarifying administrative issues.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Section A6-50 in Chapter IV of Division A6 in Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is amended as follows:

Sec. A6-50. Declaration of policy.

There is hereby established, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 500 and Section 506 of the Charter, a Santa Clara County Commission on Human Relations. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters that foster mutual respect and understanding among or between people within Santa Clara County and to address incidents of prejudice and discrimination perpetrated on and by people, or groups of people, within Santa Clara County because of race, religion, national origin, cultural background, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or other factors.

SECTION 2: Section A6-51 in Chapter IV of Division A6 in Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is amended as follows:

Sec. A6-51. Membership.

The Commission shall consist of 15 members allocated equally among the five supervisorial districts. The Commissioners shall be nominated by individual Supervisors and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Each Commissioner shall have a term of four years and until his respective successor is appointed and qualified. The terms shall be staggered so that no more than three members’ terms expire each year. No member shall be eligible to serve on the Commission for more than three (3) consecutive terms in addition to any portion of any unexpired term which may have been served. A vacancy shall exist and shall be reported to the Board of Supervisors whenever a Commissioner fails to attend more than three consecutive regular meetings of the Commission without good cause entered on the minutes of the Commission.
SECTION 3: Section A6-53 in Chapter IV of Division A6 in Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is amended as follows:


Subject to the approved budget for the fiscal year, no expenditures or requisitions for services and supplies for Commissioners shall be made, and no claims for reimbursements shall be submitted for payment without the approval of a majority of the members of the Commission. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall be responsible for preparing and processing all expenditures, requisitions and claims.

SECTION 4: Section A6-54 in Chapter IV of Division A6 in Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is amended as follows:

Sec. A6-54. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be as follows:

(a) To foster mutual respect and understanding among or between people within Santa Clara County, including people within the County subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or other factors.

(b) To make studies in the field of human relationship relating to the Santa Clara County community that, in the judgment of the Commission, will aid in effectuating its general purposes.

(c) To inquire into and investigate incidents of tension and conflict among or between people within Santa Clara County, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or other factors, and to take action by means of conciliation, conference, and persuasion to alleviate those tensions and conflict.

(d) To hold conferences and other public meetings in the interest of resolution of tensions, prejudice, and discrimination among or between groups of people within Santa Clara County, including people within the County subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, or other factors.

(e) To render to the Board of Supervisors for approval, an annual work plan no later than June of each year detailing the activities for the following fiscal year.
(f) To render to the Board of Supervisors at least once each calendar year, a report or reports of all activities. To issue publications and reports of investigation as advisory reports to the Board of Supervisors as in the Commission’s judgment will tend to effectuate the purpose of this article and provide a copy of all reports to the County Executive.

(g) To enlist the cooperation and participation of a variety of people in Santa Clara County, including people subject to prejudice and discrimination due to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, civic interest, industry and labor organizations, media or mass communication, fraternal and benevolent associations, public agencies, and other groups in educational campaigns, programs, or other activities as approved by the Board of Supervisors in the annual work plan. The education campaigns, programs, or activities shall be devoted to fostering mutual esteem, justice, and equity among or between the diverse groups within the Santa Clara County community.

(h) Subject to approval by the County Executive, to request the Executive Secretary to take any action for the purpose of furthering the objectives in this article by requesting information, services, facilities and any other assistance from County Departments.

(i) To support a youth task force in order to encourage the participation of youth within Santa Clara County and to consult and advise the Board of Supervisors on youth-oriented areas.

(j) To support a Network for a Hate-Free Community in order to encourage community participation within Santa Clara County and to consult and advise the Board of Supervisors on strategies that reduce hate violence in the community.
SECTION 5: Section A6-55 in Chapter IV of Division A6 in Title A of the Ordinance Code of the County of Santa Clara is amended as follows:

Sec. A6-55. Executive secretary.

The Executive Secretary to the Commission shall be the Director of the Office of Human Relations appointed by the County Executive and shall be under his supervision. The Executive Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Commission and shall provide staff assistance to the Board. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall be ex-officio secretary of the Commission and shall provide secretarial assistance to the Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, this 10th day of April, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Donald F. Gage, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

PHYLLIS A. PEREZ,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

KIRSTIN WONG BAKER
Deputy County Counsel