

ORDINANCE NO. 4603

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 14.1, 14.3 AND 14.5 THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE AMES HUMAN RELATION COMMISSION (AHRC) REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa, shall be and the same is hereby amended by amending Sections 14.1, 14.3 and 14.5 as follows:

Sec. 14.1. PURPOSE OF CHAPTER.

The purpose of this chapter is to implement the provisions of the Iowa Civil Rights Act, to prohibit discriminatory practices, and to further provide for the general welfare of persons in the City of Ames, Iowa, by establishing a commission to undertake projects of education to prevent discrimination and to effect cooperative undertakings with the Iowa Office of Civil Rights and to aid in effectuating the purposes of the Iowa Civil Rights Act.

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Sec. 14.3. COMMISSION APPOINTED.

(1) **Commission Appointed.** The Ames Human Relations Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. Appointments shall take into consideration the various racial, religious, cultural and social groups and geographical areas within the City of Ames in so far as may be practicable. The term of office shall be two (2) years and shall begin April 1 of the fiscal year of appointment, except that the Mayor may prescribe a shorter term for any appointment or reappointment in order to stagger terms. Six (6) of the members shall serve 2-year terms, and one (1) of the members shall serve a special 1-year term. Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired term in the same manner as original appointments. Any member or all members of the Commission may be removed from office at any time by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council, for good cause. No member who has served two (2) full consecutive terms is eligible for reappointment. The Commission shall elect one of their members to be chairperson, and develop their own rules of procedure, not inconsistent with this chapter.

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Sec. 14.5. POWERS AND DUTIES.

The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To facilitate coordination and connection among community groups to amplify the impact of their efforts toward ending discrimination and reducing inequality in the community.
- (2) To collaborate with organizations and individuals in the community to plan and participate in events that connect various populations through celebration of culture and inclusion.
- (3) To listen to community members and provide access to resources that may help resolve discrimination complaints, including connecting residents with the Iowa Office of Civil Rights when enforcement action may be needed.
- (4) To gather information and provide an annual report to the city council about the status of human rights in the community and the commission's activities promoting belonging among various populations recognized in the community.
- (5) To recommend policies and programs that promote human rights of persons and groups in the community to the mayor and city council.
- (6) To manage any city funds, donations, or grants given to the commission for promoting the purposes of this chapter.

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Section Two. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Three. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this 8 day of September, 2026.

Clement Hall
City Clerk

John A. Haila
John A. Haila, Mayor

First Reading: 8-11-26

Second Reading: 8-25-26

Third Reading: 9-8-26

Passed on: 9-8-26

I, Renee Hall, City Clerk of the City of Ames, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 4603, passed by the City Council of said City at the meeting held on September 8, 2026 and signed by the Mayor on September 8, 2026, and published in the Ames Tribune on September 12, 2026.

Renee Hall
Renee Hall, City Clerk