**ORDINANCE NO. 25-2516**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTIONS 2762 (MEMBERS), 2764 (REGULAR MEETINGS), AND 2766 (DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION) OF CHAPTER 7 (DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS) OF ARTICLE II (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CARSON MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO ADD MEMBERS WITH A FOCUS ON DISABILITY-RELATED MATTERS**

**WHEREAS,** the Human Relations Commission (“Commission”) serves as an advisory body to the City Council providing recommendations and guidance on matters related to human relations. The stated policy of the Commission is not only to protect and insure the legal rights of individuals and groups, but also to seek to provide opportunity for the full realization of the hopes, aspirations, abilities and ambitions of individuals of all religions, races, national origins, political beliefs, economic or social status, cultural background, ages or sex, thereby encouraging and developing the human resources of the community to their highest potential value, thereby improving the quality of our society and the richness of life; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Commission’s duties and functions include (among other things) advising the City Council on all matters involving discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, culture, economic status, age or sex, and receiving, hearing and investigating complaints of tensions, practices of discrimination and acts of prejudice against any person or group because of race, color, religion, ethnic origin, culture, economic status, age or sex. To better fulfill the Commission’s stated policy, the City Council desires to amend these stated duties and functions of the Commission to expressly include discrimination on the basis of disability; and

 **WHEREAS,** increasing the membership of the Commission by two (2) additional seats, reserved for members who have demonstrated knowledge or experience in disability-related matters, will enable the Commission to better fulfill its stated policy and its amended duties and functions and thereby address barriers, promote inclusivity, and provide informed recommendations to the City Council on those matters. It will also ensure protection and consideration of the rights and interests of this facet of the community in the Commission’s actions and decisions. Accordingly, the City Council now sees fit and intends to increase the Commission’s membership accordingly.

 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

 **SECTION 1. RECITALS.** The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**SECTION 2.** **AMENDMENT.** Section 2762 (Members) of part G (Human Relations Commission) of Chapter 7 (Departments, Boards, Commissions) of Article II (Administration) of the Carson Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows (new text is identified in ***bold & italics***, deleted text in ~~strikethrough font~~):

 **“2762 Members.**

The Human Relations Commission shall consist of ~~nine (9)~~ ***eleven (11)*** members, ***including*** seven (7) general members***,*** ~~and~~ two (2) youth members, ***and two (2) members with a focus on disability-related matters,*** and three (3) alternate members who shall be called upon, when necessary, in the order of their appointments as Alternate 1, 2 or 3, to substitute for any absent commissioner, each of whom shall be a resident of the City of Carson. The members shall be appointed as follows.

(a) General Members. ***Except as otherwise provided in Charter Section 602, a***~~A~~ll general members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of a majority of the entire City Council present, including the Mayor. Subject to the provisions of this Section 2762, the tenure of the first general members appointed after the effective date hereof shall expire April 30, 1994. Thereafter, all general members shall be appointed biennially for two (2) year terms expiring at midnight on April 30th of each regular municipal election year (each even-numbered year).

(b) Youth Members. ***Except as otherwise provided in Charter Section 602, t***~~T~~he two (2) youth members shall be appointed by the Mayor, based upon the recommendation of the general members, and subject to approval by the entire City Council present, including the Mayor. Each youth member shall serve for a one (1) year term or until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. All terms of office shall commence on July 1st of each year and expire on June 30th of the successive year. Thereafter, one (1) or both of the youth commissioners may be appointed for one (1) additional year, for a maximum tenure of two (2) years. The two (2) youth members shall meet all of the following qualifications.

(1) Youth members shall be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-one (21) and enrolled in school at the time of appointment;

(2) Youth members shall have maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average in the previous school year; and

(3) Youth members shall have an interest in human relations issues and concerns.

***(c) Members with a Focus on Disability-Related Matters. Except as otherwise provided in Charter Section 602, the two (2) members with a focus on disability-related matters shall be appointed by the Mayor, based upon the recommendation of the general members, and subject to approval by the entire City Council present, including the Mayor. Subject to the provisions of this Section 2762, the tenure of the first members with a focus on disability-related matters appointed pursuant to the ordinance that enacted this subsection shall expire April 30, 2026. Thereafter, all members with a focus on disability-related matters shall be appointed biennially for two (2) year terms expiring at midnight on April 30th of each regular municipal election year (each even-numbered year). Notwithstanding these members’ focus on disability-related matters which is anticipated to naturally result from the qualification requirements stated below, these members shall participate in all proceedings of the Commission, subject to compliance with applicable law. The two (2) members with a focus on disability-related matters shall meet all of the following qualifications:***

***(1) Have an interest in disability-related human relations issues and concerns;***

***(2) Have professional experience, educational qualifications, or other demonstrated expertise or knowledge related to rights, advocacy, access, services, policies, or issues of concern for persons with disabilities.***

(***d*** ~~c~~) Termination, Vacancies, Voting. The tenure of any member of the Commission and any Alternate shall be terminable at will, and without cause, ***by removal upon recommendation/nomination for removal by the Mayor and a vote of a majority of the membership of the City Council pursuant to Charter Section 605*** ~~on the motion of any member of the Council, duly seconded, and with the approval of a majority of the entire City Council present, including the Mayor~~. Subject to the provisions of this Section, the tenure of Commission members appointed on or after April 1, 1997, shall expire at midnight on the last day of the calendar month in which the next general municipal election after the member’s appointment is held for seats on the Carson City Council. Each Commission member shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed by the appointing power and has qualified unless the City Council declares the position to be vacant. Should any vacancy exist on the Commission, ***except as otherwise provided in Charter Sections 602 and 605,*** an appointment shall be made by the Mayor with the approval of a majority of the entire City Council present, including the Mayor. All appointments shall be made in an open meeting of the City Council. Action taken by the Commission shall only be valid if a majority of the general members present, and in no event less than three (3) general members, have voted for it.”

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 2764 (Regular Meetings) of part G (Human Relations Commission) of Chapter 7 (Departments, Boards, Commissions) of Article II (Administration) of the Carson Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows (new text is identified in ***bold & italics***, deleted text in ~~strikethrough font~~):

“**2764 Regular Meetings.**

The Human Relations Commission shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting in each month at such time and date as designated in the rules and regulations of the Commission. ***Six (6)*** ~~Five (5)~~ members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission may hold its meetings in the Council Chambers or in such other suitable place as the Commission may designate. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public.”

**SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 2766 (Duties and Functions of Commission) of part G (Human Relations Commission) of Chapter 7 (Departments, Boards, Commissions) of Article II (Administration) of the Carson Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows (new text is identified in ***bold & italics***, deleted text in ~~strikethrough font~~):

“**2766 Duties and Functions of Commission.**

The Carson Human Relations Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) To advise and consult with the City Council, City Administrator, and the commissions, boards and officers of the City on all matters involving discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, culture, economic status, ***disability,*** age or sex;

(b) To recommend such corrective or legislative action as may be appropriate to effectuate the policy of the City Council which is declared in this Part;

(c) To invite and enlist the cooperation of racial, religious and ethnic groups, youth and senior citizen organizations, community organizations, fraternal and benevolent societies, veterans organizations, professional and technical organizations and other groups in the City of Carson in carrying on its work;

(d) To foster communication, mutual respect and understanding among all racial, religious and other groups in the community;

(e) To make such studies in any area of human relationship in the community as in the judgment of the Commission will aid in effectuating its general purpose;

(f) To cooperate with the City, County, State and Federal agencies whenever it deems such action appropriate in effectuating the policy of this Part;

(g) To initiate, conduct or recommend such educational programs as, in the judgment of the Commission, will increase good will among inhabitants of the community and open new opportunities into all phases of community life and society for all inhabitants of the City;

(h) To hold conferences, and other public meetings, in the interest of the constructive resolution of racial, religious or other group tensions, prejudice or discrimination;

(i) To receive, hear and investigate complaints of tensions, practices of discrimination and acts of prejudice against any person or group because of race, color, religion, ethnic origin, culture, economic status, ***disability,*** age or sex, whether practiced by private persons, associations, corporations or public bodies, and to seek to resolve such matters through consultation and advice;

(j) To seek the best means of progressively improving human relations in the entire City;

(k) To issue such publications and such special reports concerning its work and investigations it may consider desirable and in the public interest, subject to the approval of the City Council;

(l) To refer all findings of discrimination within the jurisdiction of any County, State or Federal boards, commissions or departments to such agencies;

(m) To make recommendations and reports to the City Council on all matters within the duties and functions of the Commission;

(n) To submit an annual report to the City Council and such other reports as may be requested by the City Council.”

**SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

**SECTION 7.** **CERTIFICATION.** The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be posted and codified in the manner required by law.

[signatures on the following page]

**PASSED, APPROVED,** and **ADOPTED** by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the City Council at a regular meeting of the City Council on this 16th day of September 2025.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: CITY OF CARSON:

/s/ /s/

Sunny K. Soltani, City Attorney Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor

 ATTEST:

/s/

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) ss.

CITY OF CARSON )

I, Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk of the City of Carson, California, hereby attest to and certify that the foregoing ordinance, being Ordinance No. 25-2516 passed first reading on the15th day of July, 2025, adopted by the Carson City Council at its meeting held on the 16th day of September, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Davis-Holmes, Hicks, Dear, Hilton, Rojas

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

RECUSED: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

/s/

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk