

Procedures and Regulations Committee Agenda Cover Memorandum

Meeting Date: May 6, 2008

Item Title: Modifications to the Fair Housing Ordinance - Article 14, Chapter 14

Committee Action Requested:

- Approval
 For discussion
 Feedback requested

Staff Contact: Cathy Doczekalski, Acting Assistant City Manager

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Background:

On September 26, 2007 the Fair Housing Commission, on recommendation of the City Attorney, approved a revision to the complaint procedure. Previously, the Commission would both investigate and adjudicate the complaint, which causes a conflict. The proposed process would have the City Manager investigate the complaint and then issue a report to the Commission. The Commission may then have a conciliation conference if they so chose. If there is believed to be a bona fide complaint, the complaint will be forwarded on to the Administrative Hearing Officer for a hearing.

At the December 4, 2008 P&R Committee meeting, the Committee came to consensus to modify the ordinance to say that the Fair Housing Commission will hold a conciliation conference only if the City Manager finds that probable cause exists, based on his or her investigation of the complaint.

At the February 11, 2008 City Council Meeting, the item was referred back to the Procedures and Regulations Committee for further review, upon the request of the Fair Housing Commission. See follow up memo from Ms. Parson dated April 7, 2008.

At the last Committee meeting the Committee came to consensus to modify the fair housing ordinance in accordance with the attached changes as presented by Ald. Schmidt. Please note the changed to section 14-14-4 regarding landlords conditioning rental property was not made on recommendation of the City Attorney, due to state law.

Recommendation:

Move approval of modifications to the fair housing ordinance and place on the next City Council agenda for first reading.

Budget Implications:

- Does Action Require an Expenditure of Funds: Yes No
If Yes, Total Cost:
If Yes, is this a Budgeted Item: Yes No

Attachments:

- Email from City Attorney Henn
- Draft ordinance