

Fair Housing



In 1961 the City of Oberlin passed the first Fair Housing law in the state of Ohio and third in the nation (behind Pittsburgh, PA and New York, NY).

In 1965, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled a municipality was within its rights to legislate against discriminatory practices of this kind.

This makes Oberlin's Fair Housing Ordinance the first in the nation to withstand a state supreme court challenge. It was three more years before Federal fair housing legislation was adopted.

The purpose of our law was to eliminate housing discrimination in Oberlin and to further equal housing opportunities for everyone. Under the law, selective differences in treatment of any person in the sale, transfer, lease, rental, or financing of a dwelling is discriminatory.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA)



The Americans with Disabilities Act is a civil rights law that protects the civil rights of individuals who are disabled and may have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities. The definition of disability also includes having a "record of" such impairment, or "being regarded as" having such an impairment.

The Human Relations Commission understands that people with disabilities face daily challenges as they strive to function in a world built for the non-disabled. Thus, the HRC is committed to ensuring that members of Oberlin's disabled community are not discriminated in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

Human Relations Commission

City of Oberlin
85 South Main Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Human Relations Commission



Dedicated to mutual respect and understanding

Oberlin City Hall
85 South Main Street
Tel: (440) 775-1531
www.cityvofoberlin.com

Who Are We?

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) stems from a Community Relations Committee established in 1964.

In 1970 the Oberlin City Council passed an ordinance creating the HRC with duties and responsibilities.



The HRC consists of five (5) residents appointed to three year terms. A Council liaison, City Manager's Staff and staff support attend meetings. Call Oberlin City Hall about the meeting times.

What do we do?

We work toward a wholesome attitude of mutual respect and understanding among all people and organizations within the City of Oberlin.

We are open to hearing from persons or organizations from within the City concerning any complaints, alleged disputes, disagreements, misunderstandings or acts which involve the unlawful or unfair infringement upon basic human rights or freedoms guaranteed by law.

We present reports, facts, findings and recommendations to City Council serving in an advisory and consultative capacity to the City Council and to the City administration, when requested.

Types of Unlawful Discrimination

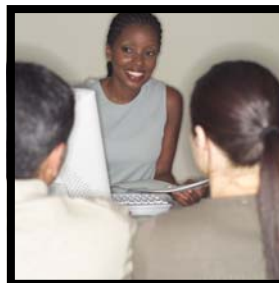
Oberlin's fair housing practices (Chapter 1185) of the Oberlin Codified Ordinances, as amended, prohibit discrimination based on:

- Race
- Color
- Gender
- Age
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Ancestry
- Disability
- Familial status
- National origin



In addition, the HRC has the responsibility of hearing grievances related to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

The HRC supports the administration and enforcement of the City's Equal Employment Opportunity Program.



What Can the Human Relations Commission Do For You?

- Receive your complaint.
- Offer an opportunity to be heard by the Commission.
- Provide mediation (*if needed*)
- Provide recommendations for resolution of the complaint or information on other resources and options.

The Complaint Process

Contact the HRC in writing or pick up a complaint form at City Hall.

- All complaints received prior to the second Monday of each month will be reviewed by the HRC at their monthly meeting. *Complaints received later will be reviewed as soon as possible at the next HRC meeting.*
- The HRC will investigate the complaint and collect information from all those involved in the complaint. Complaints that involve the possible violation of any city codes or ordinances will be referred to the appropriate city office for review.
- Where feasible, the HRC may offer a "mediation" session to help the disputing parties reach a mutually acceptable agreement.
- The HRC will make a final recommendation or offer information on other resources and options available to you by e-mail or in writing within 90 days after receipt of initial complaint.