

ORDINANCE 2025-05

TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING TITLES OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING RESIDENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: TITLE 2.12 “BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS,” TITLE 2.19 “HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT,” TITLE 2.23 “COMMUNITY AND FAMILY RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,” AND TITLE 2.20 “BLOOMINGTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS”

WHEREAS, in January 2022, a report was issued by the Novak Consulting Group to Mayor Hamilton’s administration entitled “Organizational Assessment – Boards and Commissions;” and

WHEREAS, the president of the common council created the Special Committee on Council Processes in January 2023 to review the Novak report and to make recommendations to improve the processes of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Special Committee on Council Processes was renewed in January 2024 by the new Common Council president to continue its work;

WHEREAS, subsequent to its review of the Novak Report, the Committee reviewed the Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) sections related to resident boards and commissions, consulted with those entities and their staff liaisons, and made recommendations for revisions to BMC language largely, but not solely, focused on the powers/duties/purposes of each entity; and

WHEREAS, the Committee’s recommended revisions also aim to require an annual written report to the Common Council and the Mayor from each board and commission considered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY THAT:

Section 1. Chapter 2.12 (“Boards, Commissions and Councils”) of the Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) shall be amended by incorporating the changes indicated in Attachment 1 of this ordinance. Attachment 1 deals with the following entities:

- 2.12.010 Animal Care and Control Commission
- 2.12.020 Bloomington Arts Commission
- 2.12.050 Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission
- 2.12.090 Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Celebrations Commission
- 2.12.100 Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
- 2.12.120 Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission

Section 2. Chapter 2.19 (“Housing and Neighborhood Development”), section 040 (“Board of Housing Quality Appeals”) of the BMC shall be amended by incorporating the changes indicated in Attachment 2 of this ordinance.

Section 3. Chapter 2.23 (“Community and Family Resources Department”) of the BMC shall be amended by incorporating the changes indicated in Attachment 3 of this ordinance. Attachment 3 deals with the following entities:

- 2.23.050 Commission on the Status of Children and Youth
- 2.23.060 Commission on the Status of Women
- 2.23.070 Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males
- 2.23.080 Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs
- 2.23.090 Commission on Aging

Section 4. Chapter 2.20 (“Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners”), section 150 (“Tree Commission”) of the BMC shall be amended by incorporating the changes indicated in Attachment 4 of this ordinance.

Section 5. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or application of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 19 day of February, 2025.


HOPI STOSBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:


NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 20 day of February, 2025.


NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk,
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 24 day of February, 2024.


KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance is sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith and is a result of the work done by the Special Committee on Council Processes in 2024 (which she chaired). It brings forward revisions to Bloomington Municipal Code related to thirteen resident boards and commissions in order to update and clarify the duties of each entity, require an annual written report by each entity to the Common Council and the Mayor, and to make other revisions which came up during the Special Committee's review of BMC and discussions with staff liaisons which serve the boards/commissions referenced.

Note: At the February 19, 2025 Regular Session, the Council adopted Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-05, which amended pertinent sections in Attachments 1 and 3 to update and reduce complexity of language, expand residency requirements for specific commissions, and align reporting requirements with other commissions for greater uniformity across commissions.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners, CFRD, HAND, Legal, and Mayor.

Amendment Form

Ordinance #: 2025-05
Amendment #: 01
Submitted by: Councilmember Stosberg
Date: February 19, 2025
Proposed Amendment:

1. Attachment 1, referenced within Section 1, of Ordinance 2025-05 shall be amended by changing the reference from the “Bloomington human rights commission” to the “Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission” within Section 2.12.090(2) of the Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Celebrations Commission, such that that section shall read as follows:

(2) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons belonging to local religious organizations, the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, Monroe County Government, local community school corporations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

2. Attachment 1, referenced within Section 1, of Ordinance 2025-05 shall be amended by amending subsections (f) and (g) of Section 2.12.120 governing the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission, such that those subsections now read as follows:

(f) Meetings. The commission shall meet monthly, unless canceled by the commission, with a minimum of four meetings per year.

(g) Staffing. The common council staff shall provide general administrative support for the regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

3. Attachment 3, referenced within Section 3, of Ordinance 2025-05, shall be amended by adding a requirement that commission members be residents of Monroe County within the qualifications section of Section 2.23.050(3) governing the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth and Section 2.05.060(3) governing the Commission on the Status of Women, such that those sections shall now read as follows:

2.23.050 Commission on the status of children and youth.

...

(3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. To the extent possible, members of the commission should include representatives of agencies that work with children and youth, low-income people and social service providers. To the extent possible, preference will be given to

people with experience working with children and youth advocacy groups, direct knowledge of children and youth needs and community resources, and/or knowledge of legislative and policy-making processes.

2.23.060 Commission on the status of women.

...

(3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. The members of the Bloomington commission on the status of women shall be representative of the diverse educational, employment, economic, business and community service elements of the community. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with experience working for women's issues, knowledge of legislative and policy making processes, and direct knowledge and experience working with women's needs and community resources.

4. Attachment 3, referenced within Section 3, of Ordinance 2025-05, shall be amended by changing the reporting requirement for the Commission on the Status of Black Males, the Commission on Hispanic and Latiné affairs, and the Commission on Aging to simply require an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council, such that Section 2.23.070(6) governing the Commission on the Status of Black Males, Section 2.23.080(6) governing the Commission on Hispanic and Latiné affairs, and Section 2.23.090(g) governing the Commission on Aging shall now read as follows:

2.23.070 Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males.

...

(6) The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.23.080 Commission on Hispanic and Latiné affairs.

...

(6) The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

2.23.090 Commission on aging.

...

(g) The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

5. Attachment 3, referenced within Section 3, of Ordinance 2025-05, shall be amended by striking the word "and" after the second to last clause within subsection (e) (purpose and duties) of Section 2.23.090 governing the Commission on Aging, such that subdivision (6) now reads as follows:

2.23.090 Commission on aging.

...

(e) Purpose and Duties. The commission's purpose and duties include the following:

...

(6) Celebrate the contributions seniors make to the Bloomington community;

Synopsis

This amendment, sponsored by Cm. Stosberg, would make additional minor changes to Title 2.12 and Title 2.23 governing several City commissions. The changes include grammatical corrections, updated references to the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, more simplified reporting requirements, clearer language, and a Monroe County residency requirement for Commissions on the status of children and youth and the status of women.

Regular Session Action (2/19/2025):

Passed 8-0

2.12.010 Animal care and control commission.

The commission shall be composed of six members.

- (1) Appointments. Three members shall be appointed by the mayor, two by the common council, and one by and representative of the Monroe County board of commissioners.
- (2) Qualifications. One of the mayor's appointees shall be a licensed veterinarian who is a resident of Monroe County and one shall be a member of the Monroe County Humane Association. The representative from the Monroe County board of commissioners must reside in Monroe County.
- (3) Meeting. Regular meetings shall be held once every month as called by the chairperson.
- (4) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Formulate, adopt, and implement policies, principles, and standards for humane treatment and control of all animals in the city;
 - (b) Review the decisions and actions of the director of the animal care and control department division and any animal care and control officer in any matter related to the enforcement of this chapter, if a written request for a hearing is received from the complaining animal owner within ten days after that action is taken; and
 - (c) Make recommendations to the mayor andef the city-common council as to necessary ordinances concerning the care, treatment and control of animals; and
 - (d) In carrying out its duties, consider public health and the safety of residents, as well as ecosystem health and services; and
 - (e) Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.-

(Ord. 97-03 § 3, 1997; Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).

(Ord. No. 14-11, §§ 12, 13, 7-2-2014)

2.12.020 Bloomington Arts Commission.

- (a) Public Policy and Purpose. The city of Bloomington recognizes that the arts are an important part of the culture and economy of the community, and that the city has a responsibility to foster an environment conducive to the community's participation in the arts. The conservation and development of the city's artistic resources are essential to the social, educational, and economic growth-vitality of the city. Artists, works of art, and artistic institutions contribute to the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of Bloomington. The BAC seeks to provide inclusive and equitable opportunities to all artists and community members, especially those who have been under-served.
The Bloomington Arts Commission strives to develop and enhance the Bloomington arts community by:
 - (1) Supporting local artists and artist groups;
 - (2) Engaging Bloomington residents in arts across genres;
 - (3) Facilitating connections between City of Bloomington staff, artists, and artists groups; and
 - (1)(4) Commissioning public arts works by local, regional, and national artists.
- (b) Definitions. As used in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
 - (1) "Commission" means the Bloomington Arts Commission as created in this section.

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- (2) "Public art project" means an original work of high quality art of any medium, which is created by an artist or artists, which belongs and is accessible to the public.
- (c) Appointments. The commission shall consist of eleven members. Six members shall be appointed by the mayor and five by the common council.
- (d) Qualifications. All members of the commission shall have a demonstrated commitment to the arts. To the extent possible, priority shall be given first to ensuring a broad representation of professional artists from the disciplines of the visual, performing and literary arts and then to arts administrators and arts consumers and to representatives from the education and business communities.
- (e) Terms. Members shall serve terms of three years. Members having served two consecutive three-year terms may not be reappointed until one year has passed from the end of the second term. Terms shall be staggered, with four members' first term ending within one year; three members' first term ending within two years, and four members' first term ending within three years after their initial appointment, so that no more than five members will leave the commission at the end of each term, which will be the thirty-first day of January.
- (f) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (1) ~~Develop and present to the city a public art plan, which is a list of potential public art projects to be coordinated by the commission and produced as a collaborative effort by the city and/or other civic entities~~Adopt administrative rules and regulations, adopt procedures, conduct activities and form committees necessary to conduct the commission's business;
 - (2) Develop, ~~and~~ administer, ~~and~~ promote programs to achieve the commission's purpose;
 - (3) Inform ~~and advise~~ the common council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on current arts issues ~~and large-scale strategic planning projects for the arts, and offer policy recommendations and advice;~~ and,
 - (4) ~~Adopt administrative rules and regulations, adopt procedures, conduct activities and form committees, necessary to conduct the commission's business.~~Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

(Ord. No. 11-04, § 2, 4-6-2011; Ord. No. 14-11, §§ 14—16, 7-2-2014)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 11-04, adopted April 6, 2011, repealed § 2.12.020 and enacted a new section as set out herein. The former § 2.12.020 pertained to the community arts commission and derived from Ord. No. 83-6, § 2 (part), 1983; and Ord. No. 97-11, § 1, 1997.

2.12.050 Environmental ~~Quality and Conservation~~ Commission.

- (1) Purpose. It is declared to be the public policy of the City of Bloomington and the purpose of this section to ~~achieve and maintain such levels of environmental quality as will protect human health and safety, and to the greatest degree practicable, prevent injury to plant and animal life and property, foster the comfort and conveniences of the people, promote the economic and social development of Bloomington and facilitate the enjoyment of the natural attractions of the City of Bloomington.~~promote the stewardship and preservation of the city's environment and natural resources by seeking out and responding to emerging issues, addressing them with sound long-term policy recommendations, and increasing local environmental awareness and engagement.
- ~~(2) Definitions. As used in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:~~
- ~~(a) "Environment" means the sum total of the physical, chemical and biological factors affecting the populace of the City of Bloomington and the surrounding community.~~

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(Supp. No. 46, Update 2)

~~(b) "Pollution" means the presence in the environment of one or more contaminants, or noise, in such quantities, characteristics or duration as is or tends to be injurious to human health or welfare, or property, or would interfere with the enjoyment of life or property.~~

~~(c) "Commission" means the Bloomington Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission, as created in this section.~~

~~(d) "Person" means any individual, partnership, co-partnership, firm, company, public or private corporation, association, trust, estate, or any agency, board, department or bureau of the city or any other legal entity.~~

~~(e) "Bloomington" means the City of Bloomington, its corporate limits, and any areas within its legal purview.~~

- (3) Appointments. The commission shall consist of twelve members, six appointed by the mayor and six appointed by the common council.
- (4) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with expertise in ~~one or more areas of physical sciences, biological sciences, engineering, business, sanitation, public health, conservation, and recreation.~~ environmental fields.
- (5) Meetings. The Commission shall meet a minimum of once each month.
- (6) Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
- (a) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.
- ~~(b) To hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this section and in cases of non-compliance request the city legal department to take legal action.~~
- ~~(c) To retain, employ, provide for, and compensate, within appropriations available thereof, such consultants, assistants, deputies, clerks, technical and other employees, on a full or part-time basis as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and prescribe the times at which they shall be appointed, the duration of their appointments and their powers and duties.~~
- ~~(d) To secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative and operational services including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise with any educational institution, experiment station, or any board, department, or other agency of any subdivision of state or the federal government.~~
- ~~(e) To determine by means of field studies and sampling the degree of pollution in Bloomington.~~
- (bf) To encourage, ~~and conduct,~~ synthesize, and report on studies, investigations, and research relating to ~~pollution and its causes, effects, prevention, abatement and control.~~ emerging issues in Bloomington, and make recommendations to the appropriate public and private bodies ~~with respect thereto.~~
- ~~(g) To classify contaminant sources, which in the commission's judgment may cause or contribute to pollution.~~
- ~~(h) To prepare and develop a comprehensive plan or plans for the prevention, abatement and control of pollution in Bloomington.~~
- ~~(i) To encourage voluntary cooperation by persons and affected groups to achieve the purposes of this section.~~
- (cj) To collect and disseminate information through outreach efforts that encourage engagement and personal commitment to strengthening Bloomington's environmental health, ~~and conduct educational and training programs relating to pollution and environmental quality and conservation.~~
- ~~(dk) To advise, consult, contract and cooperate with other agencies of the State and the City of Bloomington, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and~~

~~the federal government, and with interested persons or groups. To collaborate with all departments and governmental branches of the city concerning the impacts of their operations and policies on the city's environment and natural resources, through the development and distribution of reports, memos, and resolutions.~~

- (e) To ~~work with city staff to~~ apply for, ~~provide input on,~~ accept, receive and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies ~~including the state and federal governments~~ for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section. Such funds received by the commission pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in accordance with the administrative regulations of the commission. ~~The commission is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations or enter into contracts as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of this subdivision.~~
- (fm) ~~To make appropriate inquiry into and give constructive consideration to the operations and policies of all departments and governmental branches of the City of Bloomington concerning their adherence to a commitment for environmental quality and the conservation of natural resources. To cooperate with partners or groups within or outside of Bloomington on matters of environmental well-being such as responsible stewardship of biodiversity, air and water quality, and land use.~~
- (g~~a~~) ~~Submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council. To prepare reports and recommendations to the mayor, common council, board of public works, and the planning commission as needed.~~

(Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).

(Ord. No. 14-11, §§ 20—23, 7-2-2014)

2.12.090 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission.

- (1) Appointments. The Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebrations commission shall consist of seven members, with three appointed by the mayor, three appointed by the common council, and one appointed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- (2) Qualifications. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons belonging to local religious organizations, the Bloomington/~~Monroe County~~ Human Rights Commission, Monroe County Government, local community school corporations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- (3) Powers and Duties. ~~To promote and honor Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and legacy in our community, with a focus on fostering diversity, inclusivity, and advancing racial equity and justice for historically marginalized communities. The commission may appoint volunteers and associates committed to these goals. To promote and celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and the acceptance of diversity in our community. In the pursuit of these purposes the commission may appoint additional volunteers and commission associates.~~ The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

(Ord. 93-2 § 1, 1993).

2.12.100 Bloomington Commission on Sustainability.

- (1) Public Policy and Purpose. The purpose of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is to promote and advance sustainable policies and practices in Bloomington across environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Broadly, sustainability can be seen as a community or society meeting its needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a more detailed and comprehensive framework for organizing and

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(Supp. No. 46, Update 2)

~~prioritizing sustainability goals and actions. The SDGs shall guide the commission's work, along with sustainability components of relevant city plans, including the Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Sustainability Action Plan. A sustainable community seeks to enhance the socio-environmental-economic well-being of the community while taking precautions not to compromise the quality of life of future generations. Toward that end, it reduces its use of nonrenewable natural resources and its production of wastes, while at the same time improving livability. The mission of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability is to promote sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being of Bloomington and all its inhabitants.~~

- (2) General. This section is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.08.020 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.
- (3) Appointments and Residency. The commission shall consist of fourteen members. Six of the members shall be appointed by the mayor and six shall be appointed by the common council. No more than two of the mayor's appointments and no more than two of the common council appointments may be citizens who live outside the corporate city limits of Bloomington and within Monroe County. One of the six common council appointments shall be a member of the common council. One of the members shall be appointed by the Monroe County Commissioners from Monroe County government. And, the Director of the Indiana University Office of Sustainability or his/her designee shall serve as the ex-officio member from Indiana University. All members shall have a vote and shall serve without compensation.
- (4) Qualifications. Sustainability is an interdisciplinary concept. As such, the commission's membership shall reflect environmental, social and economic perspectives, unified by the common interest of sustainability. The commission shall draw its members from government, business, academia, not-for-profits and neighborhood associations.
- (5) Officers. Officers shall be selected by vote of the commission members annually.
- (6) Meetings. The commission shall meet one time each month, every month of the year, unless it decides to cancel the meeting.
- (7) Staffing. The city's sustainability coordinator shall serve as staff liaison to the commission. The liaison will research and pursue funding opportunities for sustainable development, engage in education and outreach, and identify "best practices." The city administration shall provide general administrative support for the commission.
- (8) Powers and Duties. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:
 - (A) To coordinate ongoing and to propose and promote new sustainability initiatives among residents, businesses, governmental, nongovernmental ~~agencies-organizations~~ and educational ~~organizations institutions, including through education and~~ outreach, ~~research, and education~~ programs;
 - (B) To advise and make recommendations to the Bloomington common council, city administration, and city boards and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of city government with an operating philosophy based on sustainability ~~and community resilience~~;
 - (C) To ~~determine~~ ~~provide recommendations for assessing, or provide an assessment of, Bloomington's current and future sustainability status~~, in cooperation with ~~city staff and~~ other city boards and commissions ~~as appropriate, Bloomington's current and future sustainability status by developing and monitoring a set including through the potential use~~ of sustainability indicators ~~or based on the goals of existing plans~~;
 - ~~(D) To provide, in cooperation with other city boards and commissions, an annual "sustainability assessment" based on said indicators. The assessment shall be included in an annual report and provided to the common council, mayor and the public;~~

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- (DE) To advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies, boards and commissions of the city of Bloomington, the state, other local governments, industries, other states, interstate or interlocal agencies, and the federal government, and with interested persons or groups on matters of sustainability;
 - (EF) To adopt administrative rules and regulations for the conduct of its business; and,
 - (FG) To research and apply for grants or other funds or gifts from public or private agencies for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions or purposes of this section.
 - (G) To submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council.

(Ord. 08-02 § 1, 2008; Ord. 05-15 § 1, 2005).

(Ord. No. 09-20, § 1, 11-4-2009; Ord. No. 14-11, §§ 32—35, 7-2-2014)

2.12.120 Community advisory on public safety commission.

- (a) Establishment and Purpose. There shall be established a community advisory on public safety commission ("commission"), which shall:
 - (1) Perform research and gather data on the perceptions and preferences about public safety from community members, with specific focus on perceptions and preference data gathered from minority community members, individuals who are disabled, and other often marginalized community members; and
 - (2) Research evidence-based alternatives to traditional policing; and
 - (3) Identify best practices in public safety globally and evaluate the efficacy of such practices for implementation in Bloomington.
 - (4) Make recommendations to the common council, the board of public safety, and/or the mayor or the mayor's designee on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members.
- (b) General. This commission is subject to the general provisions of Section 2.08.020 of the Bloomington Municipal Code.
- (c) Appointments. The commission shall be composed of eleven-nine voting members appointed by the common council. Each member shall have one vote and shall serve without compensation.
- (d) Qualifications. Citizen appointments to the commission must be at least eighteen years of age and reside within the City of Bloomington. Strongly encouraged to apply are residents who are historically underrepresented in local government. Such groups may include, but are not limited to residents:
 - (1) Who are Black;
 - (2) Who are Latin~~x~~é;
 - (3) Who are people of color;
 - (4) With disabilities;
 - (5) Who are experiencing or who have experienced mental health challenges;
 - (6) Who express non-binary gender identity or are non-cisgender;
 - (7) Who are experiencing or who have experienced homelessness;
 - (8) Who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence;

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- (9) Who have a previous record of incarceration;
 - (10) With addictions; and
 - (11) Who have a demonstrated background of empowering historically disadvantaged groups and working to further racial, social, and economic equity.
- (e) Officers. Officers shall be selected by a vote of the commission members annually.
 - (f) Meetings. The commission shall meet ~~one time each monthly, every month of the year, unless it decides to cancel~~ ed by the commission, with a minimum of the meeting. At least four meetings per shall be held each year.
 - (g) Staffing. The common council staff shall provide general administrative support for the regularly scheduled monthly meetings ~~commission~~.
 - (h) Terms. The initial terms of five city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2022. The term of the remaining initial six city resident appointments shall expire on January 31, 2023. Thereafter, all terms of city resident appointments shall be for two years and expire on January 31.
 - (i) Powers and Duties.
 - (1) In its actions, the commission shall seek to promote transparency, accountability, a collaborative spirit, long-term and strategic thinking, and effective risk management.
 - (2) The commission shall:
 - (A) Gather data about perceptions and preferences regarding public safety, specifically from: racial minority; economically disadvantaged; and marginalized residents of Bloomington.
 - (B) Research evidence-based approaches to public safety focusing on those approaches outside the scope of traditional policing, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) The establishment of an alternate crisis response phone number;
 - (ii) Investments in mental health care, addiction treatment, community centers, and/or job training to mitigate the causes of crime; and
 - (iii) All other innovative approaches.
 - (C) Explore best practices in socially and racially just public safety measures in cities across the U.S. and worldwide, and to examine which ideas may best be implemented in Bloomington;
 - (D) Make recommendations to the Bloomington Common Council, the board of public safety, and the mayor's administration on policies and programs that enhance public safety for all community members;
 - (E) Promote a broader view of public safety through education and outreach programs;
 - (F) Provide an annual report of its activities to the common council, mayor and the public.

(Ord. No. 20-20, § 3, 11-18-2020)

2.19.040 Board of housing quality appeals.

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of this board is to hear the appeal of any person who is the subject of, or directly impacted by, a ruling or decision of the enforcing officer or any administration official, in any matter relative to the interpretation or enforcement of any of the provisions of Title 16 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, hereinafter referred to as the "property maintenance code" of the city. The board is authorized to make investigations relative to the appeal and may overrule the decisions of any administrative officer including the neighborhood development division.
- (2) Appointments. The board shall be composed of seven members, four appointed by the mayor and three appointed by the council.
- (3) Qualifications. Members shall be residents of the city. Members may be, but are not required to be, persons who are elected, appointed, or otherwise employed by the city, but such members shall not constitute a majority of the board. Consideration shall be given for appointment to the board to tenants, owners, and persons with experience in the area of building, managing, and leasing housing.
- (4) Rules of Procedure. The board of housing quality appeals shall establish its own rules of operating procedure which may be amended from time to time by a majority of the membership; provided, however, that a petitioner seeking a variance from the property maintenance code shall always be required to make a showing that the variance requested shall not harm the safety, health, or welfare of the occupants as well as provide a reasonable explanation of why the variance is needed.
- (5) Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the board of housing quality appeals shall be to:
 - (A) Hear and determine appeals from any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official charged with the enforcement of any regulation or restrictions set forth in the property maintenance code;
 - (B) Permit and authorize variances in particular situations specified in the property maintenance code;
 - (C) Hear and authorize variances to the terms of the property maintenance code upon which the board is required to act under this section;
 - (D) In exercising its powers, the board of housing quality appeals may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from as in its opinion ought to be done in the premises, and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from which the appeal is taken.
 - (E) Report to the mayor and common council annually on trends related to housing quality appeals.**
- (6) Jurisdiction. The board of housing quality appeals shall have jurisdiction to hear the appeal of any person directly affected by a decision, notice, or order of the director or an administrative officer of the housing and neighborhood development department related to the property maintenance code.
- (7) Granting Variances—Requirements. The board of housing quality appeals shall not grant any variance unless it first finds in each individual case that the following conditions are present:
 - (A) That the value of the property to which the variance is to apply will not be adversely affected;
 - (B) That the variance is consistent with the intent and purpose of the housing code and promotes public health, safety, and general welfare.
- (8) Appeals. A person may file an appeal with the board of housing quality appeals by submitting a written appeal to the board of housing quality appeals, accompanied by a filing fee of \$20.00. The appellant shall list the names of the occupants of the premises in the appeal.

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- (9) Board Action on Appeal. Within thirty days after the filing, the board shall investigate the petition and schedule a public hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be served at least ten days before the hearing date on the appellant, the person having possession of the premises and the owner of the premises, if the owner is not in possession. The occupants of the premises shall be allowed to participate in the public hearing.
- (10) Board Decision. Four concurring votes are required for a board determination. No member shall vote on any question in which result the member is immediately and particularly interested. When the board has decided any question, any member voting on the prevailing side may move a reconsideration of the vote thereon before adjournment of the session of the board at which the vote is taken. Concurrence of a majority shall be sufficient to order reconsideration of a vote, but if a motion to reconsider is lost, it shall not again be entertained. Except in those matters irrevocable by nature or circumstance and except inasmuch as contractual or vested rights may have been established pursuant thereto, a decision of the board once made may be rescinded only by a subsequent decision.

Not more than ten days after such hearing the board shall make its findings, reasons for the decision, decision and recommendations in writing to the neighborhood development manager.

- (11) Notice of Decision. A copy of the board of housing quality appeals' written findings and decision shall be mailed to the person having possession of the premises, the owner of the premises, if the owner is not in possession, and the appellant, if a different party. In addition, the board of housing quality appeals shall make a detailed report of all its proceedings, setting forth its reasons, the vote of each member participating and the absence or abstention from voting of a member. Such record shall be open to public inspection in the offices of the housing and neighborhood development department.

- (12) Appeal from Board Decision. The written decision of the board of housing quality appeals constitutes a final administrative decision, and may be appealed to any court of competent jurisdiction.

(Ord. 97-06 §§ 3—8, 1997; Ord. 86-19 §§ 20—23, 1986; Ord. 84-20 § 1, 1984; Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).

(Ord. No. 21-11, § IX, 4-7-2021)

2.23.050 Commission on the status of children and youth.

There is created within the City of Bloomington's community and family resources department a commission on the status of children and youth. The purpose of the commission shall be to promote connections in our community which empower, enhance and nurture children and youth. The commission will access resources and information to make recommendations to people and organizations with authority to create and support systems that encourage healthy development of children and youth.

- (1) Aims and Goals.
 - (a) Identify and assess needs, resources and services relating to children and youth;
 - (b) Encourage collaboration between local agencies, schools, businesses and individuals;
 - (c) Monitor legislative developments relating to children and youth;
 - (d) Encourage local, state and federal legislation that will improve the lives of children and youth;
 - (e) Empower children and youth to have a stronger voice in our community;
 - (f) Empower children and youth to reach their full potential;
 - (g) Report assessments and make recommendations to the common council, the mayor, and the public; and
 - (h) Celebrate successes in the field of children/youth development and/or among children and youth in our community.
- (2) Appointments. The commission shall consist of nine members, five to be appointed by the mayor and four by the common council.
- (3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. To the extent possible, members of the commission should include representatives of agencies that work with children and youth, low-income people and social service providers. To the extent possible, preference will be given to people with experience working with children and youth advocacy groups, direct knowledge of children and youth needs and community resources, and/or knowledge of legislative and policy-making processes.
- (4) Procedure. The commission may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the purpose of this section and may create procedures deemed necessary for the orderly and equitable compliance with this section. New rules, regulations and guidelines may be adopted by the commission after a public hearing by a majority of the commission. The rules and regulations of the commission will be available to the public at the office of the commission and on the city's website.
- (5) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties include the following:
 - (a) The commission shall make two appointments to the city's citizen advisory committee (CAC) for community development block grants. One of the commission appointments shall serve on the CAC social service subcommittee and one shall serve on the CAC physical improvement subcommittee;
 - (b) To gather and distribute information and to issue such publications and educational information as in its judgment will further the purposes and intent of this section;
 - (c) To apply for any appropriate grants, appropriations or gifts upon approval of the community and family resources department director in order to carry out the purposes of this section;
 - (d) To cooperate with any department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the government to carry out the purposes of this section.

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- (e) To refer people to appropriate governmental units or private organizations as necessary, and
 - (f) To report in writing on its activities to the common council and the mayor annually.
- (6) Educational Programs. The commission may prepare educational programs to advance and promote the cause of children and youth among various entities and individuals in the city and to further goodwill and cooperation between and among such interested parties.

(Ord. 04-29 § 2, 2004).

(Ord. No. 12-06, § I, 4-4-2012)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 12-06, § I, adopted April 4, 2012, amended the Code by repealing former § 2.23.050 and adding a new § 2.23.050 as set out herein. The former § 2.23.050 pertained to the establishment of the community and family resources commission, and derived from Ord. No. 04-29, § 2, 2004.

2.23.060 Commission on the status of women—~~Establishment.~~

There is created within the community and family resources department a commission on the status of women. The purpose of this commission is to assure that women and men have equal opportunity to function fully and optimally as citizens of the city, as equal participants in the economy, in politics and government, in education, in social development, in the system of justice, and in all other facets of life.

- (1) Aims and Goals. It shall be the aim and goal of the commission:
 - (a) To identify the needs of women in the city, available resources and services meeting the needs of women in the city, and gaps in existing services;
 - (b) To monitor and review federal, state and local policy for its impact on city women and to make recommendations regarding those policies to the community and family resources department for appropriate action to assure women's equity;
 - (c) To stimulate and encourage legislation for the development of social services of particular benefit to women in the city and the state;
 - (d) To issue publications, educational materials and results of research, legislative review and investigations in order to educate the entire community as to the aims and goals of this commission;
 - ~~(e) To establish and maintain a close working relationship with, and to support the efforts of, the Bloomington human rights commission and the Bloomington league of women voters;~~
 - (ef) To maintain close liaison with other women's commissions throughout the state; state women's advocacy groups; and other local, state or federal programs that relate to the needs, problems and opportunities of women;
 - (fg) To maintain close liaison with federal efforts in programs affecting women to insure appropriate city participation in such programs and to consolidate those federal programs for maximum efficient uses of federal efforts at the local level;
 - (gh) To enter into contracts and accept grants for the administration of research projects, as may contribute to the strengthening and refinement of a coordinated program, upon approval of such contracts by the mayor and, when appropriate, the common council;
 - (hi) To assure a coordinated city-wide effort ~~in achieving a comprehensive women's program~~ to improve opportunities for women of the community.

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- (2) Appointments. The Bloomington commission on the status of women shall be composed of nine members. Five members shall be appointed by the mayor, and four members shall be appointed by the common council.
 - (3) Qualifications. [Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County.](#) The members of the Bloomington commission on the status of women shall be representative of the diverse educational, employment, economic, business and community service elements of the community. Preference for appointments shall be given to persons with experience working for women's issues, knowledge of legislative and policy making processes, and direct knowledge and experience working with women's needs and community resources.

In order that the concerns of the total community be adequately represented on the commission, commission membership may include both women and men.

- (4) Procedure—Rules and Regulations. The commission may adopt substantive rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section and to make more specific the procedures deemed necessary for orderly and equitable compliance with this section.

New rules, regulations, and guidelines may be adopted by the commission after a public hearing by a majority vote of the commission.

The rules, regulations, and guidelines of the commission shall be available to the public at the office of the commission.

- (5) Powers and Authority. The commission shall have the power and authority to carry out the aims and goals as defined in this chapter, including but not limited to the following:
 - (a) ~~To make recommendations to the mayor, the common council, and the public; To advise the mayor, and where appropriate, the common council, on the hiring of personnel necessary to the implementation of this section; all such personnel shall be employees of the community and family resources department and shall be subject to supervision and direction by the director of community and family resources;~~
 - (b) To hold hearings and undertake any other activities which may be necessary, desirable, or proper to carry out the purposes of this section;
 - (c) To gather and distribute information and to issue such publications and educational information and the results of such investigations and research as in its judgment will further the purposes and intent of this section;
 - (d) To report in writing on its activities to the common council and the mayor ~~quarterly~~annually;
 - (e) To apply for any federal, state, local or private grants, appropriations or gifts upon approval of the community and family resources department director in order to carry out the purposes of this section;
 - (f) To cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, any department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state, federal and local government to facilitate properly the execution of the powers and duties of this commission;
 - (g) To enter into a working relationship with the city human rights commission to perpetuate the mutual objectives set forth in this section and the Bloomington human rights commission section;
 - (h) To propose other ordinances in order to carry out this section and to propose additions or amendments to this section as deemed necessary and appropriate to insure the effectiveness of this section; and

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- (i) To refer persons to the appropriate governmental unit or private organizations which can adequately deal with their problem.
 - (6) Education Program. The commission may prepare educational programs in order to support and emphasize the purpose and intent of this section among the various groups and individuals in the city and to further goodwill among such groups and individuals; to publicize and encourage participation in this and other boards and commissions.
 - (7) Intragovernmental Cooperation. All boards, councils, commissions and departments of the government of the city of Bloomington are directed to give full cooperation to the city of Bloomington commission on the status of women.

(Ord. 08-03 § 1, 2008; Ord. 97-05 § 8, 1997; Ord. 83-6 § 2 (part), 1983).

2.23.070 Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males—~~Establishment.~~

There is created in the community and family resources department the Bloomington commission on the Status of Black Males.

- (1) Members. The Commission shall be composed of seven members.
- (2) Appointments. Three members shall be appointed by the Mayor, two by the Common Council and one each by the Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission and the Bloomington Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Celebrations Commission.
- (3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. Preference for appointments may be given to people with expertise in, or representing, one or more of the following areas: education, health, employment, criminal justice, black history, the faith community and the social service community.
- (4) Terms. The terms of all members of the commission shall be for two years.
- (5) Purpose and Duties. The commission's ~~purpose and duties shall do the~~ include the following:
 - (a) ~~Develop action committees addressing problems of black males in education, health, criminal justice and employment~~ Study which challenges Black males face in the realms of education, health, criminal justice and employment; and
 - (b) Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted problems confronting Bblack males in our community and the resulting effects on the entire community; and
 - (c) Organize and convene community forums and neighborhood-based focus groups to discuss the status of Bblack males; and
 - (d) Network with ~~like-minded other civic~~ groups such as the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, the African American Male National Council and local commissions throughout the state focused on the challenges faced by Black males, sharing ideas, information, data and plans.
- (6) Reporting Requirement. The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council, identical written reports to the mayor and the common council office by the end of February of each year describing the activities of the commission in the previous calendar year as well as future plans. Any issues or concerns regarding the commission itself, its organization or its purpose shall also be addressed in this report.

(Ord. 06-25 §§ 1, 2, 2006; Ord. 03-26 § 1, 2003; Ord. 01-03 § 1, 2001).

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(Supp. No. 46, Update 2)

2.23.080 Commission on Hispanic and Latin~~eo~~ affairs—~~Establishment.~~

There is created in the community and family resources department the commission on Hispanic and Latin~~eo~~ affairs:

- (1) Members. The commission shall be composed of seven members.
- (2) Appointments. Four members shall be appointed by the mayor and three by the common council.
- (3) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County who represent organizations serving Bloomington's Hispanic/Latin~~eo~~ residents or who have expertise and/or interest in quality of life issues as they relate to the Hispanic/Latin~~eo~~ community.
- (4) Terms. The initial terms of one mayoral and one council appointment shall expire on January 31, 2008. The terms of the remaining initial appointments shall be for two years and shall expire on January 31, 2009. Thereafter, all terms shall be for two years and shall expire on January 31st.
- (5) Purpose and Duties. The commission's ~~purpose and duties include shall do~~ the following:
 - ~~(a) — Develop action committees addressing the challenges of members of the Hispanic and Latino population in the areas of education, health, employment and public safety; and~~
 - ~~(ab) Examine and represent the experiences, needs, and challenges of the Hispanic and Latiné communities across all areas, including but not limited to education, health, employment and public safety; and~~
 - ~~(b) Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies-solutions to the multi-faceted issues confronting Latinos and the Hispanic and Latiné s in our community (identified in section a) and the resulting effects on the entire community; and~~
 - ~~(c) Network with like-minded other state and local groups such as the Indiana Commission on Hispanic/Latino affairs, Su Casa Columbus, Indiana University Latino Cultural Center (La Casa) and local organizations formed to represent and/or celebrate Hispanic and Latiné populations, to share ideas and information and to collaborate on projects where appropriate; and~~
 - ~~(d) Celebrate Latino and Hispanic and Latiné history and contributions to the Bloomington community and in-to the United States.~~
- (6) Reporting Requirement. The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council, identical written reports to the mayor and the common council office by the end of February of each year describing the activities of the commission in the previous calendar year as well as future plans. Any issues or concerns regarding the commission itself, its organizations or its purpose shall also be addressed in this report.

(Ord. 07-21 § 1, 2007).

2.23.090 Commission on aging.

The Bloomington Commission on Aging is hereby established.

- (a) Members. The commission shall be composed of nine members.
- (b) Appointments. Five members shall be appointed by the mayor and four by the common council.
- (c) Qualifications. Commission members shall be residents of Monroe County. Preference for appointments shall be given to people with expertise in, or representing, one or more of the following

(Supp. No. 46, Update 2)

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areas: senior issues, health and wellness, recreation, employment, social services, transportation and affordable housing.

- (d) Terms. The terms of the appointments shall be in accordance with BMC 2.08.020(2).
- (e) Purpose and Duties. The commission ~~'s purpose and duties include~~ ~~may do~~ the following:
- (1) ~~Develop study committees addressing~~ Assess the concerns of seniors in health and wellness, housing, transportation, employment, social services and recreation; ~~and~~
 - (2) Encourage the development of programs of particular benefit to senior citizens; ~~and~~
 - (3) Apply for grants as may contribute to the strengthening and refining of a coordinated program to benefit senior citizens, upon approval of such grant applications by the appropriate city official (s); ~~and~~
 - (4) Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted challenges confronting seniors in our community (see section 1 above) and the resulting effects on the entire community; ~~and~~
 - (5) Network with ~~like minded groups such as the AARP, Active Aging Coalition, Area 10 Council on Aging, RSVP, and other relevant local agencies~~ other groups dealing with matters of aging and older populations, sharing ideas, information, data and future plans; ~~and~~
 - (6) Celebrate the contributions seniors make to the Bloomington community; ~~and~~
 - (7) In the pursuit of these purposes, the commission may appoint additional volunteers and commission associates.
- (f) Procedure—Rules and Regulations. The commission may adopt rules, regulations and by-laws for the conduct of its affairs, which are consistent with the purpose of this section. Such rules, regulations and by-laws and amendments thereto may be adopted by the commission after a public hearing by a majority vote of the commission. The rules, regulations and by-laws of the commission shall be available to the public at the office of the commission.
- (g) Reporting Requirement. The commission shall submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council. identical written reports to the mayor and the common council office by the end of December of each year describing the activities of the commission in the previous calendar year as well as future plans. Any issues or concerns regarding the commission itself, its organization or its purpose also shall be addressed in this report.

(Ord. No. 09-24, § 1, 12-16-2009; Ord. No. 14-26, § 6, 12-10-2014)

2.20.150 Tree commission.

- (1) Purpose ~~and~~—Duties. The tree commission shall serve in an advisory capacity regarding the care of trees within the city of Bloomington ("City"). It shall be the responsibility of the tree commission to to:
 - (a) Advise the Bloomington board of park commissioners in formulating policies and practices of urban forestry as set forth in the Bloomington Municipal Code Chapter 12.24 entitled "Trees and ~~Other Vegetation~~Flora";
 - (b) Promote public education on the proper selection, planting, and care of trees by assisting the city with the publication of the city of Bloomington Tree ~~Work-Care~~ Manual;
 - (c) Assist the city in its efforts to fund urban forestry projects ~~by assisting the urban forester in finding grants, and through the application process; through donations and grants;~~
 - (d) Advise ~~the mayor, the common council, and any board, the plan~~ commission, ~~or committee~~ on tree-related matters as necessary, ~~and submit an annual report, in writing, to the mayor and common council;~~
 - ~~(e) Provide information and advice to the Bloomington board of park commissioners on cases before it regarding trees; and~~
 - ~~(f) Assist the city's urban forester in the compilation and maintenance of an inventory of all trees and tree spaces within the public streets. This inventory should record the location, species, size, condition, and planting and maintenance history of these trees.~~
 - ~~(e) Advocate for the urban forest by promoting current best management practices, or new emerging practices that would be beneficial to the urban forest;~~
 - ~~(f) Advocate for the urban forest by attending public meetings, public outreach events, urban forest-related events, and other such functions agreed upon by the commission and the staff liaison.~~
- (2) Appointments. The tree commission shall consist of ~~eight~~seven members. ~~Seven shall be appointed~~, serving for three-year terms. Two shall be appointed by the mayor, two by the common council, one by the Bloomington board of park commissioners, one by the board of public works, and one by the environmental commission. The urban forester shall serve ~~on the commission as an advisory nonvoting member as the staff liaison to the commission~~. Appointed members of the tree commission serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing body which has the ability to remove a member at any time for any reason deemed sufficient to that body. Members of the tree commission shall serve without compensation.
- (3) Meetings ~~and~~—Procedures. The commission shall meet as needed, electing a president and vice-president annually and keeping a written record of its proceedings. In any event the commission shall meet no less than six times per calendar year and shall advertise those meeting times and places in accordance with the law.

(Ord. 08-05 § 2, 2008).