



CITY OF BETHLEHEM
OFFICE OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Louise M. Kelchner, City Clerk

CC: The Honorable Robert J. Donchez, Mayor;
W. Alexander Karras, Chief of Staff
Alicia Miller-Karner, Director, Department of Community and Economic Development

From: Edmund J. Healy, Esquire, First Assistant City Solicitor

Re: proposed amendment to City Fair Housing Ordinance

Date: November 8, 2017

The Administration requests the proposed amendment to the City Fair Housing Ordinance to be submitted to City Council for consideration. The amendment would modify the Fair Housing Ordinance (Article 1737) contain the identical protections provided by the City Human Relations Commission Ordinance (Article 145).

Feel free to call me at 610-865-7011 if you have any questions or concerns.

BILL NO. _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1737
RELATING TO FAIR HOUSING OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, AS
AMENDED, TO EXPAND THE LIST OF
UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES
WITH RESPECT TO HOUSING

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 1737.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bethlehem which presently provides as follows:

1737.02 UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE

It shall be unlawful for anyone to do any of the following because of ~~race or color, national origin, religious creed, sex, age, ancestry, familial status, or disability, including use of a guide or support animal:~~

- (a) Refuse to sell, lease, finance or otherwise deny or withhold any dwelling from any person;
- (b) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of selling or leasing any dwelling or in furnishing facilities, services or privileges in connection with the ownership, occupancy or use of any dwelling;
- (c) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of any loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise, for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any dwelling;
- (d) Print, publish, or circulate any statement or advertisement relating to the sale, lease or acquisition of any dwelling or the loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any dwelling.

If someone has a physical or mental disability, has a record of such a disability, or is regarded as having such a disability, a landlord may not:

- (a) Refuse to let them make reasonable modifications to a dwelling or common use areas, at their expense, if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing;

- (b) Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

1737.02 UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE

It shall be unlawful for anyone to do any of the following because of actual or perceived race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, genetic information, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, use of guide or support animals and/or mechanical aids:

- (a) Refuse to sell, lease, finance or otherwise deny or withhold any dwelling from any person;
- (b) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of selling or leasing any dwelling or in furnishing facilities, services or privileges in connection with the ownership, occupancy or use of any dwelling;
- (c) Discriminate against any person in the terms or conditions of any loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise, for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any dwelling;
- (d) Print, publish, or circulate any statement or advertisement relating to the sale, lease or acquisition of any dwelling or the loan of money, whether or not secured by mortgage or otherwise for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of any dwelling.

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- (b) Refuse to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services if necessary for the disabled person to use the housing.

SECTION 3. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sponsored by

PASSED finally in Council on the _____ day of _____, 20__.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

This Ordinance approved this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Mayor