



## **News Release**

**December 18, 2018**

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### **City Council Approves Community Relations Commission**

**ROCKFORD, III.** – Last night, the City Council approved amendments to Chapter 11 (Human Rights) of the City of Rockford Code of Ordinances. The amendments create a new Community Relations Commission, whose focus is on community engagement. The commission will help the City better achieve its goals of involving the community, improving communication, and fostering positive relations, as outlined in the City's guiding principles adopted by Council.

The Commission will consist of 11 members, which will reflect the City's diversity and will act as an advisory board to the mayor and council. Functions of the commission will include:

- Providing opportunity for our City departments to communicate the work they do, so that commissioners can be ambassadors for the City
- Giving commissioners opportunity to provide feedback to the council, Mayor and staff on issues impacting the community
- Providing a forum for thoughtful debate on issues impacting the community, including civil rights, diversity and fair housing
- Reviewing and recommending adoption of ordinances
- Helping hold the City and our contractors accountable by periodically receiving reports from staff regarding compliance with our EEO and diversity hiring policies
- Assisting staff with informal mediation and conciliation to resolve claims of discrimination
- Recommending educational programs, trainings, and best practices to counsel and the community in furtherance of the goal of community engagement, diversity and equity
- Holding trainings on engaging minority and women owned businesses
- Helping navigate difficult issues by fostering input and discussion

More than 50 other Cities in Illinois have some form of a community/human relations commission.

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