

16.09
CODE/CHARTER
ADMINISTRATIVE

RECEIVED
ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATURE

JUL 6 2 38 PM '87

COUNTY OF ERIE

LOCAL LAW NO. 3

LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 11 (Print #1)

1987

A LOCAL LAW amending Local Law No. 1 - 1959, as amended, constituting the Erie County Charter, by amending Article XVI to add a new Article 16E, Sections 1-6 in relation to the establishment and duties of an Erie County Commission on the Status of Women.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 16E

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

- Section 1. Legislative Declaration of Policy.
- 2. Establishment, powers and duties.
- 3. Membership, meetings.
- 4. The County Executive.
- 5. Executive Director.
- 6. Effective Date.

Section 1. Legislative Declaration of Policy.

It is hereby declared to be the public policy of Erie County, New York, to eliminate discrimination or prejudice in any form that may exist on account of gender; to fully utilize the potential of each citizen, regardless of gender, in order to preserve our democratic way of life; and to provide equal opportunities to all citizens, regardless of gender, in employment, education, health and

mental health, housing, senior and social services, and before the law.

Section 2. Establishment, powers and duties.

There is hereby created, the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, hereinafter called Commission. The Commission:

1. Shall develop an information system for services relating to the needs of women, and shall develop other networks and referral programs as necessary;

2. Shall investigate and analyze resources and services available for women within County Government and programs funded by the County and shall recommend measures to coordinate, consolidate or expand these resources and services to provide maximum efficiency;

3. Shall strive to remove gender-based inequalities in such areas as housing, recreation, employment, education, health and mental health, senior, and social services and related matters through the development of educational programs and activities which emphasize women's rights, the creation and distribution of publications, and the use of meetings and conferences to promote equal rights and opportunities. The Commission may formulate and publicize a comprehensive program in coordination with private organizations and other community

groups and organizations to address the special concerns and rights of women within the County;

4. Shall conduct investigations, research studies and analyses of conditions which may result in unmet needs or in discrimination or prejudice because of gender;

5. Shall assist, advise and cooperate with Federal, State, County and local governmental agencies and public and private organizations on matters involving the needs of women and gender discrimination, and shall recommend such procedures, programs, or legislation to promote equal rights and opportunities for all persons, regardless of gender;

a. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Commission may evaluate the impact of new or amended Federal, State or local legislation, rules or regulations, or programs upon existing laws, rules and regulations, and programs, and may recommend to the proper legislative bodies or regulatory agencies appropriate amendments;

6. Shall submit an annual report of its activities and recommendations to the County Executive and County Legislature, and may submit such interim reports and recommendations as it deems necessary.

Section 3. Membership; meetings.

The Commission shall consist of 15 members to be appointed by the County Executive subject to confirmation by

the County Legislature. The County Executive shall appoint to the Commission at least two persons recommended by each of the majority and minority leaders of the Legislature.

Nominations for the remaining positions shall be actively solicited from groups which represent and are active in the area of women's concerns. The following groups shall be considered for membership on the Commission: the minority community, the volunteer community, the business community, labor organizations, senior citizens, single heads of households and other appropriate groups. In addition, the Departments of Health, Mental Health, Senior Services and Social Services, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office shall each designate one person to serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the Commission. The membership of the Commission shall reflect and represent the diversity of women and their concerns in Erie County.

a. The term of office of each of the appointive members shall commence on July 1 of the year of appointment and shall be for a period of three years. Of the members first appointed, seven shall be appointed for terms which will expire in two years, and eight shall be appointed for terms which shall expire in three years. No appointive member of the Commission may serve for more than two consecutive terms of three years.

b. The Commission shall have a minimum of ten (10) public meetings each year at which meetings the business of the Commission shall be conducted.

c. Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The County Executive shall submit the names of a successor for

any unexpired term to the County Legislature for confirmation within 60 days of the vacancy.

d. The Commission shall designate one member to serve as Commission Chairperson. Upon the expiration of the term of membership of a Chairperson, or in the event of a vacancy occasioned other than by expiration of membership term in the office of Chairperson, the Commission shall appoint a successor to that office from the Commission's membership.

e. A member may resign upon giving written notice to the Commission's Chairperson and to the County Executive.

f. The Commission shall promulgate such By-Laws as are necessary to fulfill its responsibilities under this Article.

Section 4. The County Executive.

The County Executive shall require any County department, division, board, council, committee, authority or agency, or other unit to provide such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the Commission to properly effectuate its powers and duties under this Article.

Section 5. Executive Director.

There shall be, in the Office of the County Executive, an Erie County Commission on the Status of Women,

with a salared Executive Director, who shall be responsible to the Commission. Upon review of the Commission's recommendations regarding the selection of an Executive Director, the County Executive shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the work of the Commission. The Office of the Executive Director shall be responsible for the Commission's clerical work including the preparation of agenda , the distribution of minutes and the handling of correspondence, the preparation and supervision of the printing and distribution of Commission publications, and shall perform such duties as are necessary to fulfill the Commission's responsibilities. The Executive Director shall work closely with Federal, State, County, and local governmental bodies, and public and private organizations respecting women's rights in order to carry out the policies of the Commission. The Executive Director shall make such reports to the Commission at such time and in such manner as are deemed necessary by the Commission.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately.