Chapter 18 & 18A

- Creates a Civil Rights Board for hearing local discrimination complaints.
- Protects further classes: education affiliation, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal background, and source of income.
- Protects against predatory application fees.
How did we get here?

Major 2020 Milestones:

- February 24, Commission Work Session – Fair Housing Ordinance transferred to City Staff.
- March/April, City Staff scheduled meetings to introduce ordinance to public. (COVID Executive Orders)
- July 20, Commission presentation of new Draft Ordinance with 2 Chapters; 18 and 18A.
- August 4, 6, 10, 13 – Held forums to discuss changes and questions regarding ordinance.
- August 17, first reading of draft ordinance presentation to City Commissioners.
Overview of Changes

First reading updates:

• Civil Rights Board to make recommendations to the City Manager; and to hear appeals of cases.
  • This will be included in the procedures and bylaws of the board-not the ordinance.

• 18 Month review of the ordinance with the City Commission
  • Update the CRB with bylaws and procedures.

• Added the effective date of November 30; to allow for the Civil Rights Board to be recruited and trained.
Civil Rights Board Complaint Process

1. File a complaint with the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Office
2. DEI Office reviews complaint with City Attorney to determine: Local, State, or Federal Complaint Process
3. If complaint should go to MDCR or Fair Housing Center; complaint will be sent to local or State Office.
4. If complaint is local, DEI Director & Attorney will assign investigation to appropriate department(s)
5. The board will make a recommendation to the DEI Office; appeals will also go to the board for consideration
6. Case may come to City Manager or designee for conciliation
Future Programs & Studies

- Training for Fair Housing Law
  - Property owners & tenants
- 18 month review of Chapter 18A
- Rental Registration future study
- Landlord & Tenant support pilot under development
Ordinance Timeline
What’s Next?

**Board Recruitment** – September/October
- Accepting applications September 9 to 28
- Commission selection of members in October for 7 members

**City Commission approval of board members**
- First meeting in November

**First Civil Rights Board Meeting in December**
- Fair Housing Law training; begin bylaw and procedure outlines

**Property Owner Training to begin in November**
- Fair Housing Center to host virtual trainings