


MEMORANDUM
City of St. Petersburg, Florida

TO: The Honorable John Bryan, Chair and Members of the City Council

FROM:  Tish Elston, First Deputy Mayor/City Administrator

RE: Suspension of Chapter 15 of the St. Petersburg City Code as it Relates to Complaints Which Can Be Filed Pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance

DATE: July 12, 2007

The City's ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices in employment, housing and public accommodations is set forth in Chapter 15 of the City Code.

As of September 30, 2007, the City of St. Petersburg Community Affairs Department plans to cease processing of new complaints of discrimination which can be filed pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance. This change is a product of proposed staff layoffs resulting from budget reductions brought on by the tax reform initiated by the State legislature, which will produce a savings of several hundred thousand dollars.

The Community Affairs Department will refer complaints of discrimination as noted above to Pinellas County for intake, processing and enforcement staff to investigate and enforce such complaints. Therefore, Chapter 15 of the St. Petersburg City Code must be suspended as it relates to complaints which can be filed pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance.

City and County staff have been working together to transition these activities as smoothly as possible. The County intends to absorb several of the City's existing staff and to maintain a presence in downtown St. Petersburg. The City's Community Affairs staff will work closely with the County and maintain an advocacy function.

Attachment - Ordinance Amendment

cc: Rick Baker, Mayor
John C. Wolfe, City Attorney
Mark A. Winn, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Jeannine Williams, Assistant City Attorney
Theresa D. Jones, Community Affairs Director
Eva Andujar, City Clerk

AN ORDINANCE CEASING ANY FURTHER INTAKE OF COMPLAINTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 15 OF THE ST. PETERSBURG CITY CODE WHICH CAN BE FILED PURSUANT TO THE PINELLAS COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE REFERRAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS TO PINELLAS COUNTY FOR PROCESSING UNDER THE PINELLAS COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS ORDINANCE; SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHAPTER 15 AS IT RELATES TO SUCH COMPLAINTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, as of September 30, 2007, the City of St. Petersburg Community Affairs Department plans to cease the intake and processing of complaints of discrimination which can be filed pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance due to staff layoffs resulting from budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, due to the need to close complaints currently under investigation, the Community Affairs Department will need to refer complaints of discrimination to Pinellas County for intake, processing and enforcement.

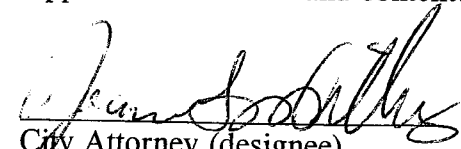
THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. The City of St. Petersburg will cease any further intake of complaints pursuant to Chapter 15 of the St. Petersburg City Code which can be filed pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance and will refer individuals with such complaints to the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights.

Section 2. Chapter 15 of the St. Petersburg City Code is hereby suspended as it relates to complaints which can be filed pursuant to the Pinellas County Human Relations Ordinance.

Section 3. In the event this ordinance is not vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, it shall become effective upon the fifth business day after adoption unless the Mayor notifies the City Council through written notice filed with the City Clerk that the Mayor will not veto this ordinance, in which case it shall take effect immediately upon filing such written notice with the City Clerk. In the event this ordinance is vetoed by the Mayor in accordance with the City Charter, it shall not become effective unless and until the City Council overrides the veto in accordance with the City Charter, in which case it shall become effective immediately upon a successful vote to override the veto.

Approved as to form and content:


City Attorney (designee)