

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE No. 2023-21

**ESTABLISHING THE MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION AND
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BY THE CREATION OF CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE VII, ENTITLED
“MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE”**

WHEREAS, a workgroup was formed by Township Council in August 2021 for the expressed purpose of developing a mission statement for diversity, equity, and inclusion activities in the Township; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated January 3, 2022, the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee was established; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Verona desires to re-establish the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee by Ordinance so that the Committee is recognized as a permanent Committee within the Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the Township Council of the Township of Verona does hereby create Chapter 18, Article VII entitled “Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee” of the Code of the Township of Verona to read as follows:

§ 18-32 Establishment. There is hereby created a Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee in the Township of Verona.

§ 18-33 Appointment Terms.

- A. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee shall consist of thirteen to fifteen members including the following:
1. A member of the Council to be appointed by it to serve as liaison (non-voting member);
 2. Township Manager or designee;
 3. An employee appointed by the Township Manager;
 4. Director of the Verona Public Library or designee;
 5. The Superintendent of Schools or designee;
 6. Nine (9) adult public members; and
 7. Two (2) high school public members (optional).

The term of the Township Manager, Director of the Library, and Superintendent of Schools shall correspond to their respective tenure or if the member is the respective official's designee in the absence of the respective official, the designee shall serve at the pleasure of the official during the official's tenure. The term of the governing body member shall be for one year or terminate at the completion of their respective term of office, whichever occurs first. Adult public members shall be appointed by the Township Council and shall serve for terms of three years, except that the term of the members first appointed pursuant to this section shall be distributed evenly over the first three years after their appointments so that the term of not more than three adult public members shall expire in any one year. The high school public members shall serve for one year or terminate upon their graduation, whichever occurs first.

- B. Any vacancy occurring by reason of the death, resignation or removal for cause of any public member shall be filled by the Township Council for the unexpired term of such member.

§ 18-34 Mission Statement.

The Mission Statement of the Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee is as follows: Verona’s vibrant community proudly welcomes all residents, business owners, employees, and visitors. Together we are working toward being a truly inclusive place where our

policies, services, and programs meet the needs of all people.

§18-35 Duties and Responsibilities.

The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee is hereby charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

- 1) Make recommendations to the Council twice per year on the diverse, cultural, economic and social issues within our community and solutions to ensure accessibility for all community members for our services and programs; and
- 2) Assist the Township administration with the organization, coordination, research, and manage actions in the Community as it relates to multicultural inclusion and accessibility of the Township's policies, programs, and services.
- 3) The Committee shall issue a report annually on the completed activities of the Committee.

§ 18-36 Organization, Officers.

- A. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary at its organizational meeting.
- B. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all the meetings of the Committee, which minutes and copies of official correspondence of the Committee shall be kept on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

§ 18-37 Meetings

- A. The Multicultural Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly.
- B. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson pursuant to the rules of the Open Public Meetings Act.
- C. The Committee may make and amend rules and regulations concerning the conduct of its meetings.

SECTION 1: REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS

All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all such ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remaining in effect; it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as provided by law.

SECTION 4: CODIFICATION

This ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the Township of Verona as though codified and fully set forth therein. The Municipal Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The Municipal Clerk and the Township Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the Township of Verona in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental

repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.



ATTEST:

Jennifer Kiernan
JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED ORDINANCE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE STAR LEDGER, A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AND CIRCULATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA, IN THE ISSUE OF MAY 5, 2023 AND MAY 23, 2023

**JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK**

INTRODUCTION: May 1, 2023
PUBLIC HEARING: May 15, 2023
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 4, 2023