

ORDINANCE NO. 130055

Enacting a new Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 17, to codify the establishment of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission.

WHEREAS, as part of the City's celebration of the United States bicentennial in 1976 an Ethnic Heritage Committee was established by Mayor Charles B. Wheeler to highlight the contributions to Kansas City's growth by its many ethnic groups through a parade, ethnic menus at local restaurants, and a written study of the contribution of the City's ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, members of the Naturalization Council recommended the formation of the Ethnic Enrichment Committee in 1978, which sponsored the first Ethnic Enrichment Festival; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1980, the City Council passed Committee Substitute for Ordinance No. 51860 establishing a permanent Ethnic Enrichment Commission constituting representatives of 29 organizations representing much of the ethnic diversity of Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has grown in the time since its permanent establishment to include representatives of more than 50 countries as well as African American and Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission still sponsors the Ethnic Enrichment Festival in cooperation with the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and holds an annual Diplomatic Ball; and

WHEREAS, the incredible changes in the world and especially in our city have altered the activities of many groups; and

WHEREAS, to involve the currently active organizations designed to preserve, honor, and share their ethnic backgrounds it is appropriate to modify the membership of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That there is enacted a new Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 17, Code of Ordinances, entitled "Ethnic Enrichment Commission" to read as follows:

DIVISION 17 – ETHNIC ENRICHMENT COMMISSION

Sec. 2-970.13. Commission established.

There is created an Ethnic Enrichment Commission for the purpose of coordinating and encouraging ethnic programs to serve as a continuation of the Commission established by Committee Substitute for Ordinance 51860 passed on August 14, 1980.

Sec. 2-970.14. Membership.

(a) The Commission shall be no less than eighty (80) members appointed by the Mayor to serve three year terms. The Mayor may appoint additional members to adequately reflect the City's many ethnic communities and organizations upon recommendation of the Commission. The Mayor may request from the Commission more than one nominee for a position. Because each member of the Commission must have special knowledge about a particular ethnic group to enable that member to properly and adequately represent the ethnic group, members need not reside within the City but may be residents of Missouri or Kansas.

(b) Members of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission as it exists immediately prior to the effective date of this ordinance will continue as members to complete their current term.

(c) Officers of the Ethnic Enrichment Commission as it exists immediately prior to the effective date of this ordinance will continue to serve their current term. Officers will thereafter be selected by the Commission as the members agree.

(d) The Mayor may appoint one member of the City Council to serve on the Commission. The Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, and the Director of Parks and Recreation shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Commission.

(e) Inactive members may be removed by the Mayor upon recommendation of the Commission. No member shall be removed until notified by the Commission of the member's inactive status and the member's continued failure to participate in the work of the Commission.

Sec. 2-970.15. Duties and powers.

The Ethnic Enrichment Commission will coordinate ethnic programs; encourage recognition and respect of ethnic identity; and prepare and disseminate information regarding ethnic heritage. The Commission may adopt appropriate bylaws and rules and regulations to carry out its duties and powers. The Commission will provide a report, at least annually, to the Mayor and City Council and to the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners summarizing the previous work of the Commission and the plans for the current and ensuing years.

Approved as to form and legality:

William Geary
City Attorney