

ORDINANCE NO. 1581

CITY OF LACEY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON EQUITY TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS ISSUES OF INEQUITY THROUGH POLICY IMPROVEMENT, INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES, AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 2.34 OF THE LACEY MUNICIPAL CODE AND APPROVING A SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.

WHEREAS, the City of Lacey is the most racially and ethnically diverse city in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lacey is a stronger community *because of* the diversity of background, perspectives, and experiences of its community members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lacey identifies itself as a welcoming and inclusive city for all members of the Lacey community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lacey recognizes its responsibility to establish and maintain civic engagement with underrepresented groups in the community, ensuring that differences and gaps are considered in the decision making process for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lacey is committed to partnering with local civic leaders and organizations to improve communication with underrepresented groups to address areas of concern; and

WHEREAS, City of Lacey employees and elected leaders strongly support these principles and strive to embody these ideals every day as they provide critical public services in an inclusive and equitable manner to all residents, visitors, and businesses in Lacey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby added to the Lacey Municipal Code a new Chapter 2.34, Commission on Equity, to read as follows:

2.34.010 Creation

There is created a commission to be known as the Commission on Equity which shall perform all of the duties and shall have all of the authority hereinafter set out.

2.34.020 Purpose

The purpose of the commission is to identify and advance opportunities that will create a more welcoming community, continue critical conversations on race and equity, seek greater

participation from underrepresented community members, and identify existing gaps and barriers which could prevent full participation in government and public policy.

2.34.030 Membership – Terms

A. The commission shall consist of seven general members and one youth member who reside in the city of Lacey or reside in Lacey’s urban growth management area. Commissioners shall be appointed by the mayor, which appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the city council. Terms for general members shall be for three years. General membership on the commission shall be limited to two full consecutive terms. If there are no applicants for a vacant position one month prior to the expiration of term, the incumbent may be reappointed to an additional three-year term by the mayor with the approval of the city council. The general and youth members shall be selected without respect to political affiliations.

B. The youth member shall be at least sixteen years of age (when appointed), enrolled as a junior or senior in the North Thurston School District, or enrolled in private school or homeschooled, and be a resident of the city of Lacey or reside in Lacey’s urban growth management area. The youth member shall be appointed to serve for a term of one year. The incumbent youth member may be reappointed to an additional one-year term. Except as outlined in this section, the youth member shall have the same rights and responsibilities of the general members.

C. A majority of the general members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The youth member shall not be included in the count to constitute a quorum. Any action taken by a majority of those present when those present constitute a quorum, at any regular or special meeting of the commission, shall be deemed and taken as the action of the commission.

D. The commission members shall not receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered on the commission, but necessary expenses actually incurred and within the budget as set by the annual budget ordinance shall be paid.

E. Vacancies occurring otherwise than through the expiration of terms shall be filled for the unexpired terms. The members shall be selected without respect to political affiliations. The general commissioners may request the resignation of a general and/or youth member who has three or more unexcused absences at regular meetings in a calendar year.

F. General or youth members may be removed from the commission prior to the expiration of their term of office by the mayor with approval of the city council, pursuant to the city of Lacey policy procedure manual and boards and commissions standards, protocols, and ground rules handbook

2.34.040 Organization – Records

A. The commission shall select its own chairperson from within its membership and may create such other offices and adopt all rules as it may deem necessary for the orderly conduct of its business.

B. An accurate record shall be kept of the proceedings of all meetings. These records shall be public and a copy thereof shall be transmitted to the city clerk after each meeting.

2.34.040 Commission Duties and Responsibilities

The commission shall have the power and it shall be its duty, subject to such rules and regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by ordinance, to create policy recommendations, provide data analysis, and address issues related to:

- A. Inclusivity;
- B. Education; and
- C. Equity.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Section 3. SEVERABILITY. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. CORRECTIONS. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the corrections of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection number and any references thereto.

Section 5. The Summary Attached is hereby approved for publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2021.

CITY COUNCIL

BY: Andy D. Clark  
Mayor

Attest:

Peter Edmonds  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

[Signature]  
City Attorney

Published: January 25, 2021

SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION

ORDINANCE NO 1581

CITY OF LACEY

The City Council of Lacey, Washington passed on January 21, 2021, Ordinance No. 1581, entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION ON EQUITY TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS ISSUES OF INEQUITY THROUGH POLICY IMPROVEMENT, INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES, AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 2.34 OF THE LACEY MUNICIPAL CODE AND APPROVING A SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION.”

The main points of the Ordinance are described as follows:

1. The Ordinance adds a new chapter 2.34 to the Lacey Municipal Code establishing a Commission on Equity.
2. The Ordinance approves this summary for Publication.

A copy of the full text of this Ordinance will be mailed without charge to any person requesting the same from the City of Lacey.

Published: January 25, 2021