

Sec. 77-6. Duties generally.

(1) The Commission on Human Relations shall have the power and it shall be its duty:

(a) To research, assemble, analyze, and disseminate pertinent data and educational materials relating to activities and programs which will assist in the elimination of prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, and discrimination, and to institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings, and conferences to promote equal rights and opportunities of all persons regardless of their race, religious creed, ancestry or national origin and to promote good will, cooperation, understanding, and human relations among all persons of different races, colors, religious creeds, ancestries or national origins. In performance of its duties, the Commission shall cooperate with interested citizens, racial, religious and ethnic groups, community, business, professional, technical, educational and civic organizations.

(b) To cooperate with the County Executive; and all governmental agencies concerned with matters within their jurisdiction.

(c) To study and investigate by means of public or private meetings, conferences and public hearings conditions which may result in discrimination, prejudice, intolerance and bigotry because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin.

(d) To advise and counsel the residents of Montgomery County, the County Council, the County Executive and the various departments of County, State and Federal governments on matters involving racial, religious, or ethnic prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and bigotry and to recommend such procedures, program or legislation as it may deem necessary and proper to promote and insure equal rights and opportunities for all persons, regardless of their race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin.

(e) To work to remove inequalities due to discrimination, prejudice, intolerance and bigotry on such problems as housing, recreation, education, health, employment, public accommodations, justice and related matters.

(f) To initiate or receive complaints of discrimination, prejudice, intolerance and bigotry from any person or group because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry or national origin which deprives that person or group of equal rights, protection or opportunities. To investigate complaints, seek conciliation of such complaints, and if warranted, to hold hearings and make recommendations on such complaints. Neither the Commission as a whole, nor any of its members not serving on a panel, shall engage in any of the functions or jurisdictions assigned to a Commission Panel or the Executive Secretary.

(g) To adopt such rules and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Chapter; to keep a record of its hearings, activities, and minutes of all meetings, said records and minutes shall be on file with the Executive Secretary of the Commission and open to the public at reasonable business hours upon request.

(h) To render at the request of the Executive or within thirty (30) days following each quarter of the calendar year preliminary written or oral reports of its activities and recommendations to the County Executive and the County Council and a final written yearly report summarizing its activities, goals, needs, and recommendations.