



City of Columbus

Legislation Report

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

File Number: 3435-2024

File ID: 3435-2024

Type: Ordinance

Status: Passed

Version: 2

***Committee:** Rules & Policy Committee

File Name: Clerk Code Change

File Created: 12/03/2024

Final Action: 12/18/2024

Auditor Cert #:

Auditor: When assigned an Auditor Certificate Number I , the City Auditor, hereby certify that there is in the treasury, or anticipate to come into the treasury, and not appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified hereon, to pay the within Ordinance.

Contact Name/No.:

Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)

Mayor's Action

Council Action

Mayor

Date

Date Passed/ Adopted

President of Council

Veto

Date

City Clerk

Title: To amend Sections 229.03 and 229.04 of the Columbus City Codes to accommodate the electronic filing of domestic partnership declarations, and to declare an emergency.

Sponsors: Shannon G. Hardin

Attachments: Domestic Partnership Code Change

Related Files:

Approval History

Version	Seq #	Action Date	Approver	Action	Due Date
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History of Legislative File

Ver.	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Columbus City Council	12/09/2024	Read for the First Time				
1	Columbus City Council	12/16/2024	Amended as submitted to the Clerk				Pass
1	Columbus City Council	12/16/2024	Amended to Emergency				Pass
1	Columbus City Council	12/16/2024	Approved as Amended				Pass
2	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	12/16/2024	Signed				
2	MAYOR	12/17/2024	Signed				
2	CITY CLERK	12/18/2024	Attest				

ODI: Following the review and approval, when required, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion certifies compliance with Title 39 as of date listed.

City Attorney: Following review and approval, when required, this ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office as to its form and legality only.

Explanation

This ordinance amends Sections 229.03 and 229.04 of the Columbus City Codes, the code sections associated with the city's domestic partner registry. The current code requires that any two persons "wishing to establish a domestic partnership" must complete and submit a declaration of domestic partnership with the Columbus City Clerk, and do so either in person or via mail. This code change replaces the "in person" and "by mail" options aspect of filing a declaration with "electronically" to accommodate electronic submission of a declaration. This code change also adds an administrative fee to accommodate electronic filing costs.

Emergency action is requested in order to align enactment of the code with the establishment of online payment processing in early January.

Title

To amend Sections 229.03 and 229.04 of the Columbus City Codes to accommodate the electronic filing of domestic partnership declarations, and to declare an emergency.

Body

WHEREAS, current Columbus City Code requires that any two persons "wishing to establish a domestic partnership" must complete and submit a declaration of domestic partnership with the Columbus City Clerk, and do so either in person or via mail; and

WHEREAS, this code change replaces the "in person" and "by mail" options aspect of filing a

declaration with “electronically” to accommodate electronic submission of a declaration; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operations of the office of the City Clerk in that it is necessarily to immediately enact this code change to align with the establishment of online transactions in early January 2025, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That Section 229.03 of the Columbus City Codes is hereby amended as follows:

229.03 - Filing.

(1)Location: Two (2) persons wishing to establish a domestic partnership must complete and file, ~~either in person~~ electronically or by ground mail, a declaration of domestic partnership with the Columbus City Clerk.

(2)Prohibitions: No individual who has previously filed a declaration of domestic partnership with the Columbus City Clerk may file a new declaration of domestic partnership until a notice of termination of domestic partnership has been filed with the Columbus City Clerk. However, this prohibition shall not apply if the previous domestic partnership ended because one (1) of the domestic partners is deceased. A death certificate or a dated newspaper obituary with newspaper citation may be used as proof of death to end partnership.

SECTION 2. That Section 229.04 of the Columbus City Codes is hereby amended as follows:

229.04 - Registration.

(1) The city clerk shall develop "declaration of domestic partnership" and "notice of termination of domestic partnership" forms.

(2) The "declaration of domestic partnership" form shall require each registrant to:

- a. Affirm that the individual meets the aforementioned requirements of this section;
- b. Provide a mailing address;
- c. Sign the form under penalty of perjury; and
- d. Have a notary public acknowledge his or her signature.

(3) The city shall have declaration and termination forms available at the office of the city clerk.

(4) The city shall charge **fifty (\$50.00) dollars plus** an administrative fee ~~of fifty (\$50.00) dollars~~ to persons filing a declaration of domestic partnership. No fee shall be charged for the filing of a notice of termination of domestic partnership.

(5) The city shall register the declaration of domestic partnership in a registry and return a copy of the declaration form to the domestic partners at the address provided as their common residence.

(6) The city shall register the notice of termination of domestic partnership pursuant to the aforementioned requirements set forth in this division.

SECTION 23. ~~That this ordinance shall take effect at the earliest date allowable by law.~~ That, for the reasons stated in the Preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after passage and approval by the Mayor or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.