

Community Relations Commission and Protected Classes
A Historic Overview

1959 to Mid-1970s: The first Community Relations Department and an advisory Community Relations Commission were established by the city in 1959 for the purpose of promoting amicable relations among racial and cultural groups within the community and to disseminate authentic and factual data relating to intergroup relationships.

Mid-1970 to Early 1980s: Community Relations Department scaled back until eventually being abolished in early 1980s.

1990: Columbus City Council passed an ordinance re-establishing the Department of Community Relations, extending Columbus human rights protections regardless of *race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, political orientation, sexual orientation, age or handicap*. (2065-90)

1992: Creation of a 22-member commission was established by the Mayor, with administration of such commission moving from City Clerk's Office to the Mayor's Office. (1655-92)

1992: City updated and clarified code definitions pertaining to protected classes. (1684-92)

2008: Expanded civil rights protections by adding and/or further clarifying the protected classes of *disability, gender identity or expression, familial status and military status*. (1865-2008)

2010: City of Columbus allowed the extension of benefits to the domestic partners of City employees.

2012: City of Columbus develops the City of Columbus Domestic Partnership Registry formally recognizing partnerships established in Ohio and/or the marriages of same- or different-sex partners in other states. (1584-2012)

2014: Legislation is currently being promoted to extension of protected classes to both the Recreation and Parks, and Health Codes.