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**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2021
BY VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; David Heuvelman; Dominique Johnson;
Thomas Keegan; Thomas Livingston; Kadeem Roberts

STAFF: Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel; Anna Keegan, Acting
Director, Human Relations/Fair Rent

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the Roll as indicated above.

2. PUBLIC HEARING (possible action on)

A public hearing was not scheduled for this evening.

3. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

A public hearing was not scheduled for this evening.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to comment this evening.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- January 19, 2021 – regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2: Ms. Johnson reviewed the item and explained that the idea was raised to change the definition of gender so hat going should read - Ms. Johnson reviewed the item and explained that the idea was raised to change the definition of gender so that going

Page 3: She noted that what is proposed is used by the State of Connecticut should read She noted that what is proposed is nearest the language of the statutes used by the State of Connecticut.

Page 3: Ms. Johnson said she will separate the amendment and bring it back to the Committee next month should read Ms. Johnson said she will separate the two paragraphs of the amendment and bring it back to the Committee next month.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Discuss and Vote on Chapter 7, General Provisions:
Section 7-6 – Definitions – Gender.

Ms. Shanahan said this item reviews the language they saw last month. She said the Committee will vote to move this item to a public hearing next month. Ms. Johnson said this takes into account the feedback and separates the paragraphs for ease of understanding and use. The first paragraph mirrors the State Statute language and it means to address the gender neutrality in the code. Ms. Shanahan explained the reason they did this was because otherwise they would have had to go through each Ordinance

to update it for gender neutrality. Mr. Candela added that as they go through Ordinances in the future, they can make these changes gender neutrality changes. If this item moves to a public hearing, in order to save on the cost, they will only be amending the definition under Section 7-6, under the definition of gender.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 7,
GENERAL PROVISIONS: SECTION 7-6 – DEFINITIONS – GENDER TO
A PUBLIC HEARING
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss and Vote on Chapter 59A Housing: Equal Opportunity:
 - o Section 59A-1.
 - o Section 59A-2.
- Discuss and Vote on Chapter 60 Human Relations Commission:
 - o Section 60-1.
 - o Section 60-2.
 - o Section 60-5.

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Anna Keegan for being present this evening. Ms. Johnson presented the red lined version of the Code and noted it was last amended in 1999. She said this suggested amendment came from conversations about making sure there was non-discrimination language in the Code and modernizing the language and making it more inclusive. Ms. Johnson said that offensive terms were redlined. She said they need to determine how to address potential loopholes.

Ms. Keegan explained the authority given to the Human Relations Commission under the State Statute. She said that when the State Statute was passed, the section dealing with sexual orientation was numbered differently. She added that gender identification is listed in the State Statute and they may be able to act on it. Ms. Keegan said that the State Statute is very limited and excludes multiple sexual orientations and all romantic orientations.

In response to Mr. Livingston's question, Ms. Keegan explained the difference between mental disability and intellectual disability.

Mr. Candela noted that no one in the Law Department has had a chance to look at the language in the Code. It was suggested that to capitalize on gender to include language "including but not limited to". Mr. Heuvelman said that the word Gender should be included, based on the fact the Committee just took pains to define Gender.

Ms. Shanahan said the Committee needs another review before moving this item to a public hearing.

Mr. Heuvelman asked for definition of Romantic Orientation. Ms. Keegan said she did not know how to define it by law, because it has not been dealt with in the law. Mr. Heuvelman suggested using the term “Sexual/Romantic Orientation”.

The Committee members will review the Ordinance and Mr. Candela will send a copy of 7-148 and 7-148i to the Committee members.

8. DISCUSSION ITEM

Ms. Shanahan said the Committee will be dealing with outdoor dining next month. Mr. Candela said there are a lot of discussions on the Municipal Attorney List Serve and he will forward information to the Committee members.

Mr. Heuvelman asked if the Committee will be looking at long term outdoor dining. Ms. Shanahan noted that outdoor dining has been very successful.

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services