

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISSION, TEXAS, CREATING AN UNIFIED COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE'S APPLICABILITY; AND PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO THE CITY SECRETARY TO PUBLISH CERTAIN REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE BOARD IN THE CITY OF MISSION, TEXAS' CODE OF ORDINANCES**

**WHEREAS**, individuals with disabilities and their families often experience barriers to the enjoyment of simple life experiences and other public amenities and programs;

**WHEREAS**, their abilities are often overlooked, the capacities underestimated, and their needs given a lower priority; and

**WHEREAS**, the barriers they face are more often a result of their environment in which they live than as a result of any personal impairment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Mission desires to create a model city for inclusion, by identifying leaders with an interest in matters pertaining to all individuals with special needs; identifying programs, services and events to serve that community; and assisting with the discovery of possible solutions to better serve those individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Mission finds that it is in the public interest to create the Unified Community Advisory Board for monitoring the city's policies, practices, and procedures with respect to accommodating individuals with special needs; reporting on its activities to the City Council, and recommending possible solutions to better serve those individuals with special needs, including their families.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISSION, TEXAS, THAT DIVISION 6, UNIFIED COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD, UNDER CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE III (BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS) – BE HEREBY CREATED:**

**Section 1.** The foregoing recitals are adopted as findings of the City Council as though set forth fully herein.

**Section 2.** The Code of Ordinances, City of Mission, Chapter 2 ("Administration"), Article III (Boards, Committees, Commissions), is amended to add Division 6 ("Unified Community Advisory Board") as follows:

**DIVISION 6. UNIFIED COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

**Section 2-171. Created; composition.**

(a) Created. There is hereby created the city's Unified Community Advisory Board. For purposes of this act, the terms "special needs" and "disabilities" shall be used interchangeably.

(b) *Composition.* The Unified Community Advisory Board shall be composed of seven members. Members should include people with disabilities and representatives of agencies and organizations who are interested in providing services to individuals with disabilities and who are interested in their abilities and specific needs.

(c) *City Staff.* The Mission Parks and Recreation Director, Library Director, Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Mission, Shary Municipal Golf Course Director, and City Manager's Office, shall each designate a representative from their respective departments to attend board meetings, but such persons shall not be members of the advisory board and shall not have a vote.

### **Sec. 2-172. Membership.**

(a) *Appointment.* The members of the Unified Community Advisory Board shall be appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the city council.

(b) *Terms.* The terms of office of the members of the Unified Community Advisory Board shall commence as provided in section 2-73 and shall be for three years.

(c) *Filling vacancies.* Vacancies occurring on the Unified Community Advisory Board, other than because of expiration of term, shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

(d) *Recommendation of appointees.* It shall be the duty of the Unified Community Advisory Board to annually recommend to the city council appointees to the committee, such appointees to be selected by the committee by a system of vote or ballot to be determined by the committee.

(e) *Initial terms and severance clause.* At the first regular meeting of the Unified Community Advisory Board following the adoption of this section, voting members will draw for terms to begin a staggered rotation of expiration of terms. Two one-year terms, two two-year terms, and three three-year terms will be drawn. Upon expiration of these terms, all new appointments will be made for the standard three-year term as called for in subsection (b) of this section. This subsection is severable upon completion of the draw for terms.

### **Section 2-173. Duties/Expenses.**

(a) *Duties/goals.* The duties of the board are to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and City Manager and shall investigate and make recommendations regarding ways that the city can more effectively create and maintain programs, events and services that promote and enhance inclusivity of individuals with special needs, including their families.

(b) *Incurrence of expenses.* The Unified Community Advisory Board shall not be authorized to incur on behalf of the city any expense incident to the operation.

**Secs. 2-174 – 2-190. Reserved.**

**Section 3.** Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

**Section 4.** This ordinance will be and remain in full force and effect following its passage, approval and adoption by the City Council.

**Section 5.** The City Secretary of the City of Mission is hereby authorized and directed to cause the language in Chapter 2, Article III, Division 6 (Unified Community Advisory Board), as stated in Section 2, hereinabove, to be published in the appropriate location in Mission's Code of Ordinances.

**Section 6.** The City Commission finds and determines that the meetings at which this ordinance was passed, approved and adopted were open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meetings were duly given as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**CONSIDERED, PASSED, AND APPROVED** this 12th day of June, 2023, at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Mission, Texas, at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

CITY OF MISSION

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Carrillo, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Victor A Flores, City Attorney