

JOIN THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION!

What is the Baltimore Community Relations Commission?

In 1966, the Baltimore Equal Opportunity Commission was renamed to the Baltimore Community Relations Commission in Subtitle 2, Article 4 of the Baltimore City Code. The Baltimore Community Relations Commission was established to investigate claims of discrimination and enforce the laws that protect community life in Baltimore City. The Baltimore Community Relations Commission also combats unlawful discrimination through education, outreach, and training activities. The Baltimore Community Relations Commission receives, investigates, and resolves complaints that specifically affect employment, housing, public accommodation, health & welfare, and education in Baltimore City.

The mission of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission is to eliminate discrimination in critical areas of Baltimore City life. Board members take an active role in authorizing and reviewing cases, also bringing their specialized knowledge to bear when discussing cases before it. The work of the Baltimore Community Relations Commission is more important than ever, as the City experiences a limited affordable housing stock and more individuals reenter the job market.

The Baltimore Community Relations Commission is housed within the Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement. The Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement is a city agency devoted to upholding the federal and local civil rights laws, as well as the local minimum, living, and prevailing wage laws. The overarching mission of the Office of Civil Rights is to carry out activities to eliminate discrimination and protect individuals' civil rights.

BOARD

The Baltimore Community Relations Commission's Board is composed of ten (10) members, who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Baltimore City Council.

DUTIES

- Review and authorize complaints of unlawful practices occurring within 180 days of such alleged unlawful practice;
- Formulate and carry out a comprehensive plan designed to eliminate and prevent discrimination;
- Initiate studies concerning potential discriminatory practices occurring in Baltimore City;
- Conduct and publish surveys or audits concerning the status of civil rights/human rights;
- Render a written report of activities to the Mayor and City Council;
- Adopt and publish rules and regulations necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission;
- Consult with advisory agencies and councils to effectuate the provisions of Article 4;
- Hold public hearings to determine whether an unlawful discriminatory act has occurred within the Commission's jurisdiction;
- Issue subpoenas and compel attendance and testimony in the enforcement of Article 4; and
- Cooperate, negotiate, and contract with other governmental agencies and organizations to achieve the goals of Article 4 without duplication.

MEMBERSHIP

- Board Members serve without compensation. Members also meet once a month, twelve times per year, at the Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement, 7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor, in Baltimore City.
- To apply and serve on the Baltimore Community Relations Commission, interested individuals must submit the following information: Name, Contact Information, a copy of CV/Resume, and a written explanation as to why you would like to serve on the Baltimore Community Relations Commission. This information can be submitted via email to civilrights@baltimorecity.gov, mailed or hand-delivered to 7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor, Baltimore MD 21202.

