



## MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE ON:

### **Ordinance 23-09 – To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Administration and Personnel” Re: the Creation of a Joint City-County Human Rights Commission**

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#### **Synopsis**

This ordinance approves of changes to Title 2 (“Administration and Personnel”) of the Bloomington Municipal Code in order to create and empower a joint Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission, which will replace the City and County individual Human Rights Commissions.

#### **Relevant Materials**

- Ordinance 23-09
  - Appendix 1, Bloomington Municipal Code Chapter 2.23 as Modified by the Proposed Ordinance 23-09 (Redline)
- Staff memo (forthcoming)
- Monroe County Ordinance 2010-44
- Related resolution and interlocal agreement to appear on the agenda for the May 3, 2023 Regular Session

#### **Summary**

Ordinance 23-09 amends Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code to reflect the creation of a joint city-county commission, a proposal that will come to Council through both this ordinance and through an upcoming resolution. The proposal is the result of discussions between city and Monroe County officials.

#### **History:**

The City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission (HRC) was first established as the Human Relations Commission by [Ordinance 65-02](#), amended by [Ordinance 68-15](#), and was later renamed and reorganized by both [Ordinance 70-37](#) and [Ordinance 83-6](#). Most recently, [Ordinance 23-02](#) transferred the primary responsibilities of the Bloomington HRC from the Legal Department to the Community and Family Resources Department. Under Municipal Code Section 2.23.130, as relocated from Section 2.21.040, the Commission currently calls for seven members, four appointed by the mayor and three appointed by the Council.

The Monroe County Human Rights Commission was established by the [Monroe County Human Rights Ordinance](#) in 2010, which was last amended in 2017. The County Commission also has seven members, all appointed by the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.



The County ordinance mirrors the Bloomington Municipal Code to the extent that most provisions, including definitions, are identical or nearly identical between the two local governing entities.

Notably, the current differences between the Bloomington and Monroe County ordinances that govern each respective Commission are as follows: the City includes more protections for veterans and requires affirmative action by city contractors, the County carves out additional permissive practices for employers regarding employees with disabilities, and only the City limits the Commission's authority to voluntary investigations and mediation regarding complaints of housing status discrimination.

Ordinance 23-09 reflects the codification of combining the two Commissions, with changes to be reflected in the Bloomington Municipal Code. A redline version of the affected code is attached to the ordinance to show the proposed text edits.

Please note that a separate resolution approving of an interlocal agreement between the City and County will be introduced at the same time that this ordinance will be scheduled for a potential vote at the May 3, 2023 Regular Session. Under state code, two entities who wish to jointly exercise power must enter into a written agreement approved by ordinance or resolution. [Ind. Code 36-1-7-2](#). The draft resolution and interlocal agreement are provided in this packet for context.

The combined Commission would still have seven members, with three appointed by the Mayor, two by the Common Council, and two by the Monroe County Commissioners. Members appointed by the City must be City residents, and members appointed by the County must be County residents. Information on the proposed changes and their expected fiscal impact will be available in the staff memo (forthcoming) or by contacting Beth Cate (see contact below).

### **Contact**

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