

San Francisco Administrative Code
Chapter 12C

Nondiscrimination in Property Contracts

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Sec. 12C.1. All Contracts and Property Contracts to Include Nondiscrimination Provisions.

(a) All contracting agencies of the City, or any department thereof, acting for or on behalf of the City and County, shall include in all contracts and property contracts a provision obligating the contractor not to discriminate on the basis of the fact or perception of that person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, disability or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or HIV status (AIDS/HIV status), weight, height, association with members of classes protected under this chapter or in retaliation for opposition to any practices forbidden under this chapter, against any person seeking accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, services, or membership in all business, social, or other establishments or organizations, operated by that contractor, and shall require such contractor to include a similar provision in all subcontracts.

(b) The requirements of this Chapter shall apply to (i) any of a contractor's operations within San Francisco; (ii) a contractor's operations on real property outside of San Francisco owned by the City or which the City has a right to occupy if the contractor's presence at that location is connected to a contract or property contract with the City; (iii) where the work is being performed by a contractor for the City within the United States; and (iv) any of a contractor's operations elsewhere within the United States. (Amended by Ord. 489-86, App. 12/18/86; Ord. 433-94, App. 12/30/94; Ord. 440-96, App. 11/8/96; Ord. 481-96, App. 12/20/96; Ord. 201-97, App. 5/27/97; Ord. 286-97, App. 7/18/97)

Sec. 12C.2. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter the term:

“Age” for the purpose of membership refers to the age of any person who has attained the age of 18 years, except for bona fide senior citizen organizations.

“City” shall mean the City and County of San Francisco.

“Commission” shall mean the Human Rights Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.

“Contract” shall mean an agreement for public works or improvements to be performed, or grants to be provided, or for goods or services to be purchased, at the expense of the City and County or to be paid out of moneys deposited in the treasury or out of trust moneys under the control or collected by the City and County, and does not include property contracts, agreements entered into pursuant to settlement of legal proceedings, or contracts for a cumulative amount of \$5,000 or less per vendor in each fiscal year.

“Contractor” means any person or persons, firm, partnership, corporation, or combination thereof, who enters into a contract or property contract with a department head or officer empowered by law to enter into contracts or property contracts on the part of the City and County.

“Director” shall mean the Director of the Human Rights Commission.

“Disability” is a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, or a record of such an impairment.

“Domestic partner” shall mean any person who has a currently registered domestic partnership with a governmental body pursuant to State or local law authorizing such registration.

“Gender identity” shall mean a person's various individual attributes as they are understood to be masculine and/or feminine.

“Property contract” shall mean a written agreement for the exclusive use or occupancy of real property for a term exceeding 29 days in any calendar year, whether by singular or cumulative instrument, (i) for the operation or use by others of real property owned or controlled by the City for the operation of a business, social, or other establishment or organization, including leases, concessions, franchises and easements, or (ii) for the City's use or occupancy of real property owned by others, including leases, concessions, franchises and easements. For the purposes of this Chapter, “exclusive use” means the right to use or occupy real property to the exclusion of others, other than the rights reserved by the fee owner. “Property contract” shall not include a revocable at-will use or encroachment permit for the use of or encroachment on City property regardless of the ultimate duration of such permit, except that “property contract” shall include such permits granted to a private entity for the use of City property for the purpose of a for-profit activity. “Property contract” shall also not include street excavation, street construction or street use permits, agreements for the use of City right-of-way where a contracting utility has the power of eminent domain, or agreements governing the use of City property which constitutes a public forum for activities that are primarily for the purpose of espousing or advocating causes or ideas and that are generally recognized as protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, or which are primarily recreational in nature.

“Qualified disabled employee” shall mean a person able to perform the essential functions of a job with reasonable accommodation.

“Sex” shall mean the character of being male or female.

“Sexual orientation” shall mean the status of being lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual.

“Subcontract” shall mean an agreement to (i) provide goods and/or services, including construction labor, materials or equipment, to a contractor, if such goods or services are procured or used in the fulfillment of the contractor's obligations arising from a contract with the City, (ii) to transfer the right to occupy or use all or a portion of a real property interest subject to a

property contract to a subcontractor and pursuant to which the contractor remains obligated under the property contract.

“Subcontractor” means any person or persons, firm, partnership, corporation or any combination thereof, who enters into a subcontract with a contractor. Such term shall include any person or entity who enters into an agreement with any subcontractor for the performance of 10 percent or more of any subcontract. (Amended by Ord. 489-86, App. 12/18/86; Ord. 433-94, App. 12/30/94; Ord. 440-96, App. 11/8/96; Ord. 481-96, App. 12/20/96; Ord. 201-97, App. 5/27/97)

Sec. 12C.3. Nondiscrimination Provisions.

Every contract and property contract entered into by any agency of the City shall incorporate by reference and require contractor to comply with the nondiscrimination provisions of Section 12C.3. In addition, all contractors must incorporate by reference in all subcontracts and require subcontractors to comply with the requirements of this Section 12C.3, and failure to do so shall constitute a material breach of contract.

In the performance of a contract, the contractor or subcontractor shall agree as follows:

- (a) The contractor or subcontractor will not discriminate against any person seeking accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, services, or membership in the business, social or other establishment or organization operated by the contractor or subcontractor on the basis of the fact or perception of that person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, disability or AIDS/HIV status, weight, height, association with members of classes protected under this chapter or in retaliation for opposition to any practices forbidden under this chapter. Services provided by contractor or subcontractor to the public shall be provided regardless of disability of persons otherwise entitled to or qualified for such services.
- (b) Should the contractor or subcontractor operate as a membership organization, the contractor or subcontractor will permit access to its membership records, rules, regulations and other pertinent data, by the City's awarding authority, or the Commission, for the purpose of investigating to ascertain compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter, and on request provide evidence that the contractor or subcontractor has complied or will comply with the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter. The Director shall be the final arbiter of a contractor's or subcontractor's compliance or substantial compliance with this Chapter and the Director's determination shall not be appealable to the Commission.
- (c) A contractor or subcontractor shall be deemed to have breached the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter upon:

- (1) A finding by the Director or such other official who may be designated by the Commission, that contractor or subcontractor has wilfully violated such nondiscrimination provisions.
- (2) Upon such finding by the Director or other official designated by the Commission, the awarding authority shall notify the contractor or subcontractor that unless the contractor or subcontractor demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Director or other official designated by the Commission within such reasonable period as the Commission shall determine, that the violation has been corrected, action will be taken as set forth in Section 12C.3(d) and/or Section 12C.3(g).

(3) The Commission shall, within 10 days of the date of issuance of any findings by the Director or other official designated by the Commission for the enforcement of this Chapter, mail to any person or persons affected by said finding, a copy of said finding, together with written notice of the right to appeal such finding. Notice of appeal must be filed in writing with the Chairperson of the Commission within 20 days of the date of mailing said copy and notice.

(4) For purposes of appeal proceedings under this Section, a quorum shall consist of eight members of the Commission. The vote of the majority of the full Commission shall be necessary to affirm, reverse or modify such decisions, order or other action rendered hereunder. Should a member of the Commission be designated under Section 12C.3(c)(1) of this Chapter, that Commissioner may not participate in an appeal under this Section except as a witness.

(5) The presiding officer of the Commission shall have the power to administer oaths to witnesses in appeals before the Commission under this Section. In the event that any person shall fail or refuse to appear as a witness in any such proceeding after being requested to do so, and if it shall appear to the Commission that his or her testimony, or books, records, documents or other things under his or her control are material and relevant as evidence in the matter under consideration by the Commission in the proceeding, the presiding officer of the Commission may subpoena such person, requiring his or her presence at the proceeding and requiring him or her to bring such books, records, documents or other things under his or her control.

(6) All appeals to the Commission shall be open to the public. Records and minutes shall be kept of such proceedings and shall be open to public inspection. Upon reaching a decision in any appeal, the Commission shall give written notice thereof to the Director or other official designated by the Commission, and the appellant or appellants. The decision of the Commission shall be final unless within 15 days of the filing and service of written notice thereof appropriate legal proceedings are filed in a court of competent jurisdiction by any party to the contract, property contract or subcontract.

(7) If any contractor or subcontractor shall fail to appear at an appeal proceeding of the Commission after having been given written notice to appear, such failure to appear shall be grounds for termination of the contract, property contract or subcontract and such contractor or subcontractor shall be deemed to have forfeited all rights, benefits and privileges thereunder.

(8) The Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter.

(d) A breach of the nondiscrimination provisions in the performance of a contract, property contract or subcontract shall be deemed by the City to be a material breach of contract and the basis for determination by the awarding authority that the contractor or subcontractor is an irresponsible contractor or subcontractor as to all future contracts or property contracts for which such contractor or subcontractor may submit bids. Such contractor or subcontractor shall not, for a period of up to two years thereafter, or until it shall establish and carry out a program in conformity with the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter, be allowed to act as a contractor or subcontractor under any contract or property contract.

(e) Nothing contained in this Chapter shall be construed in any manner so as to prevent the City from pursuing any other remedies that may be available at law, equity or under any contract or property contract.

(f) The contractor or subcontractor will meet the following standards for compliance:

(1) If the contractor or subcontractor has been held to be irresponsible under Section 12C.3(d) hereof, the contractor or subcontractor shall furnish evidence that it has established and is carrying out a program in conformity with the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter.

(2) The contractor or subcontractor may be required to file with the Commission a basic compliance report. Wilful false statements made in such reports shall be punishable as provided by law. No contractor or subcontractor shall be held in noncompliance for not filing such a report with the Commission unless it has been specifically required to do so in writing by the Commission.

(g) The awarding authority may deduct from the amount payable to the contractor or subcontractor by the City under any contract or property contract subject to this Chapter, or may impose upon the contractor or subcontractor, a penalty of \$50 for each person for each calendar day during which such person was discriminated against in violation of the provisions of this Chapter. In addition to any other penalties provided for the violation of the nondiscrimination provisions of this Chapter or for the failure of any contractor or subcontractor to abide by the rules and regulations of the Commission, the contract, property contract or subcontract may be terminated or suspended, in whole or in part, by the awarding authority upon the basis of a finding as set forth in Section 12C.3(d) that the contractor or subcontractor has discriminated contrary to the provisions of this Chapter, and all moneys due or to become due hereunder may be forfeited to, and retained by, the City. (Amended by Ord. 489-86, App. 12/18/86; Ord. 433-94, App. 12/30/94; Ord. 201-97, App. 5/27/97; Ord. 286-97, App. 7/18/97)

Sec. 12C.4. Human Rights Commission Empowered.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission, its presiding officer and its director are hereby granted the power to do all acts and exercise all powers referred to in Section 12C.3 thereof. (Amended by Ord. 84-77, App. 3/11/77)

Sec. 12C.5. Funding.

The Board of Supervisors shall appropriate such funds from the General Fund of the City and County of San Francisco, subject to budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, as it may deem necessary for enforcement of this ordinance. (Amended by Ord. 84-77, App. 3/11/77)

Sec. 12C.5-1. Nonapplicability, Exceptions and Waivers.

(a) The Director shall waive the requirements of this Chapter under the following circumstances:

(1) Whenever the Director finds, upon the advice of the awarding authority, that there is only one prospective contractor willing to enter into a property contract with the City for use of City property on the terms and conditions established by the City, or that the needed goods, services, construction services for a public work or improvement, or interest in or right to use real

property are available only from a sole source, and the prospective contractor is not currently disqualified from doing business with the City, or from doing business with any governmental agency based on any contract compliance requirements;

(2) If the contracting department or commission certifies in writing to the Director that pursuant to Administrative Code Section 6.30 or 21.25 the contract or property contract is necessary to respond to an emergency which endangers the public health or safety and no entity which complies with the requirements of this Chapter capable of responding to the emergency is immediately available; provided that such certification must be made prior to the Controller's contract certification;

(3) Where the City Attorney certifies in writing to the Director that the contract involves specialized litigation requirements such that it would be in the best interests of the City to waive the requirements of this Chapter.

(b) This Chapter shall not apply where the prospective contractor is a public entity and the Director finds that goods, services, construction services for a public work or improvement or interest in or right to use real property of comparable quality or accessibility as are available under the proposed contract or property contract are not available from another source, or that the proposed contract or property contract is necessary to serve a substantial public interest.

(c) This Chapter shall not apply where the contracting officer finds that the requirements of this Chapter will violate or are inconsistent with the terms or conditions of a grant, subvention or agreement with a public agency or the instructions of an authorized representative of any such agency with respect to any such grant, subvention or agreement, provided that the contracting officer has made a good faith attempt to change the terms or conditions of any such grant, subvention or agreement to authorize application of this Chapter.

(d) Upon the request of a potential contractor or upon the contracting officer's own initiative, after taking all reasonable measures to find an entity that complies with the law, the contracting officer may waive any or all of the requirements of this Chapter for any contract, property contract or bid package advertised and made available to the public, or any competitive or sealed bids received by the City as of the date of the enactment of this ordinance under the following circumstances:

(1) Where the contracting officer determines that there are no qualified responsive bidders or prospective contractors who could be certified by the Commission as being in compliance with the requirements of this Chapter and that the contract or property contract is for goods, a service or a project that is essential to the City or City residents; or

(2) Where the contracting officer determines that transactions entered into pursuant to bulk purchasing arrangements through federal, State or regional entities which actually reduce the City's purchasing costs would be in the best interests of the City; or

(3) Where the contracting officer determines that the requirements of this Chapter would result in the City's entering into a contract with an entity that was set up, or is being used, for the purpose of evading the intent of this Chapter, which is to prohibit the City from entering into contracts with entities that discriminate based on the criteria set forth in this Chapter;

(4) The waiver authority granted to contracting officers in this Section 12C.5-1(d) shall be subject to the requirements that:

(i) All proposed waivers must be submitted to the Director and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. All proposed waivers must set forth the reasons the contracting officer is requesting the waiver, what steps were taken to find an entity that complies with this Chapter and why the waiver does not defeat the intent of this Chapter, which is to prohibit the City from entering into contracts with entities that discriminate based on the criteria set forth in this Chapter. Such waivers shall be subject to the prior approval of the Director, who shall take action approving or denying a proposed waiver within 30 days of receiving a notification of a proposed waiver from a contracting officer. If after 30 days the Director has taken no action on the proposed waiver, the waiver shall be deemed approved. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall list the notice of the proposed waiver at the rear of the next available Board agenda, and

(ii) Contracting officers report to the Director whenever such a waiver is granted within five days of granting the waiver, and

(iii) For any contract subject to approval by the Board, the contracting officer shall state in the approving resolution whether any waiver under this Section 12C.5-1(d) has been or is proposed to be granted for that contract, and

(iv) The Director shall conduct quarterly comprehensive reviews of the use of the waiver authority by departments and shall make a report to the Board of Supervisors. Contracting officers who have exercised waiver authority under this Section 12C.5-1(d) in the previous quarter must appear before a Board of Supervisors committee and report on their use of such waiver authority. If the Board finds abuse of waiver authority by a department under this Section 12C.5-1(d), either as a result of a report of the Director or upon its own initiative, the Board may by resolution transfer that waiver authority for that department to the Director, to be exercised by the Director upon recommendation of the contracting officer under any or all of the circumstances enumerated in this Section 12C.5-1(d);

(5) Nothing in this Section 12C.5-1(d) shall limit the right of the Board of Supervisors to waive the provisions of this Chapter.

(e) This Chapter shall not apply to (i) the investment of trust moneys or agreements relating to the management of trust assets, (ii) City moneys invested in U.S. government securities or under pre-existing investment agreements, or (iii) the investment of City moneys where the Treasurer finds that:

(1) No person, entity or financial institution doing business in the City and County which is in compliance with this Chapter is capable of performing the desired transaction(s); or

(2) The City will incur a financial loss which in the opinion of the Treasurer would violate his or her fiduciary duties.

This subparagraph (e) shall be subject to the requirement that City moneys shall be withdrawn or divested at the earliest possible maturity date if deposited or invested with a person, entity or financial institution other than the U.S. government which does not comply with this Chapter.

(f) The General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission may waive the requirements of this Chapter where the contractor is providing wholesale or bulk water, power or natural gas, the conveyance or transmission of same, or ancillary services such as spinning reserve, voltage control, or loading scheduling, as required for assuring reliable services in accordance with good utility practice, to or on behalf of the San Francisco Public Utilities

Commission; provided that the purchase of same may not practically be accomplished through the City's standard competitive bidding procedures; and further provided that this exemption shall not apply to contractors or franchisees providing direct, retail services to end users within the City and County of San Francisco. (Added by Ord. 481-96, App. 12/20/96; amended by Ord. 201-97, App. 5/27/97; Ord. 286-97, App. 7/18/97; Ord. 431-97, App. 11/21/97)

Sec. 12C.6. Severability.

This Chapter shall be construed so as not to conflict with applicable federal or State laws, rules or regulations. Nothing in this Chapter shall authorize any City agency to impose any duties or obligations in conflict with limitations on municipal authority established by federal law at the time such agency action is taken.

In the event that a court or agency of competent jurisdiction holds that the State or federal law, rule or regulation invalidates any clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, it is the intent of the Board of Supervisors that the court or agency sever such clause, sentence, paragraph or section so that the remainder of this Chapter shall remain in effect. (Amended by Ord. 84-77, App. 3/11/77; Ord. 286-97, App. 7/18/97)