

# POLICY

**SUBJECT:** Equal Employment Opportunity

It is the policy of this District to provide, through a positive and effective program, equal opportunities for employment, retention and advancement of all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog or domestic violence victim status.

Sexual orientation is defined as heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality or asexuality, whether actual or perceived.

The term “military status” means a person’s participation in the military service of the United States or the military service of the state, including but not limited to, the armed forces of the United States, the army national guard, the air national guard, the New York naval militia, the New York guard and such additional forces as may be created by the federal or state government as authorized by law.

Provisions will be provided for the publication and dissemination, internally and externally of this policy to ensure its availability to interested citizens and groups.

Additionally, administration shall establish grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination. Those intending to file a grievance due to alleged discrimination must follow the grievance procedure as established by the District.

**Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior (Commonly Known as “Whistle-Blower” Protection)**

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of discrimination. Follow-up inquiries shall be made to ensure that discrimination has not resumed and that all those involved in the investigation of the discrimination complaint have not suffered retaliation.

**Posting Requirement of Correction Law Article 23-A**

The District shall post, in a place accessible to employees and in a visually conspicuous manner, a copy of Article 23-A of the Correction Law and any regulations promulgated under that statute. Article 23-A addresses the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offences.

**Civil Penalties in Employment Discrimination Matters**

New York State Human Rights Law imposes civil fines and penalties, payable to the State, of up to \$50,000 for unlawful acts of employment discrimination, and up to \$100,000 for willful, wanton or malicious discrimination. In accordance with law, these penalties may be assessed in all cases of employment discrimination. Under the legislation, an employer with fewer than fifty (50) employees may be allowed to pay the civil fines and penalties in installments.

# POLICY

2015

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Personnel

**SUBJECT:** Equal Employment Opportunity (Cont'd)

The new civil fines do not replace or limit other relief under New York State Human Rights Law that may be awarded to a prevailing complainant in an administrative proceeding which includes, but is not limited to, affirmative relief from the employer (e.g., an order that the individual be hired, promoted or reinstated by the employer), backpay and other compensatory damages (e.g., emotional distress damages). Punitive damages and attorneys' fees are not currently payable to a prevailing complainant. These remedies, however, may be available to a prevailing plaintiff in a court action.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 United States Code (USC) Section 621  
Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 12101 et seq.

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) Public Law 110-233

Prohibits discrimination in the workplace based upon genetic information.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 United States Code (USC) Section 794 et seq.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 2000d et seq.

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 2000e et seq.

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 United States Code (USC) Section 1681 et seq.

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Civil Rights Law Section 40-c

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

Civil Service Law Section 75-B

Executive Law Section 290 et seq.

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog or domestic violence victim status.

Labor Law Section 201-f

Military Law Sections 242 and 243

Adopted: 08/07/95

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