



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20141027-4a: Gender-Neutral Signage for Single-Occupancy Restrooms

WHEREAS, City Council directed the City Manager to process an ordinance requiring gender-neutral signage for single-occupancy restrooms, and present that ordinance to the Human Rights Commission and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to be a leader on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, gendered restroom facilities can present uncomfortable and even dangerous situations for gender non-conforming Austinites; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ rights organization, has recently launched a campaign to promote all-gender restrooms; and

WHEREAS, colleges and other civic institutions across the country, such as Northwestern University and the City of Philadelphia, are establishing requirements for the provision of all-gender restrooms; and

WHEREAS, Washington, D.C., requires local businesses to provide all gender signage on single-occupancy restrooms and recently adopted a program that utilizes social media to identify non-compliant businesses, which allows city staff to educate the businesses and to gain compliance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supporting people who are transgender or gender non-conforming, gender-free bathrooms are also helpful to people with disabilities, people with personal attendants, people with children, and the employees and customers of businesses with limited available restrooms;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Human Rights Commission recommends the Austin City Council to amend the City Code to require gender-neutral signage for single-occupancy restrooms.

Date of Approval: October 27, 2014

Record of the vote: Motion by Commissioner Guilbeaux, seconded by Commissioner Krueger, adopted 6-0; Commissioner Brenner absent.

Attest:

Jonathan Bahial 11-4-2014