



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission

Recommendation Number: 20170815-3E: Support for Transgender Citizens

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has a proud history of progressive values and support for the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has had in place ordinances that prohibit discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation since April 1977; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, in February 1982, became the 17<sup>th</sup> city in the nation to amend their fair housing ordinance to protect gays and lesbians from housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, in December 1986, passed an ordinance protecting people in Austin with HIV/AIDS from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, in January 1991, Austinite Glen Maxey became the first openly gay member of the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, in 2004, passes ordinances protecting people in Austin from discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression in employment, housing and public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, in January 2015, became the third city in the nation to pass an ordinance that requires all single occupancy public restrooms to be gender neutral; and

WHEREAS, the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature introduced bills that would restrict the use of restrooms and changing rooms in public facilities to the sex listed on a person's birth certificate or driver's license and which would increase marginalization of gender non-conforming persons and which was characterized by Texas Governor Greg Abbott as the "Transgender Bathroom Bill"; and

WHEREAS, On July 26, 2017, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump announced in a Twitter message that transgender people would no longer be allowed to serve in the military; and

WHEREAS, Austin Mayor, Steve Adler responds by announcing that transgender soldiers are welcome to apply to serve on the Austin Police Force stating that "If you're qualified to keep our country safe

you're qualified to keep Austin safe. Transgender Americans are welcome on our police force.” further stating “Austin is the safest big city in Texas partly because we know our differences make us a stronger community.”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission encourages the Austin City Council to affirm that:

The City of Austin affirms the value and human dignity of all citizens regardless of gender identity and expression and further encourages citizens and businesses to reject discriminatory practices which further marginalize the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Furthermore, the City of Austin commits to fighting for the rights, dignity and respect of all its citizens.

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Record of the vote:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

(Staff or board member can sign)

DRAFT