



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

City of Austin LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20190211-4b (Victim Neutral Affidavits)

WHEREAS, in the wake of Monica Loera's January 2016 murder the Austin Police Department misgendered and misnamed her; and

WHEREAS, representatives from organizations including the Austin Lesbian & Gay Peace Officers Association (LGPOA), Transgender Education Network of Texas, Equality Texas, and the District and City Attorney's offices formed a committee to craft recommendations APD is working to adopt; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's 2009 Non-Discrimination Ordinance prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people, like many other marginalized communities, have long-standing, historic experience of systematic and institutional discrimination; and

WHEREAS, while the City has stated its commitment to the protections and inclusivity of the LGBTQ community, culture has not yet caught up in many cases and conditions have not changed enough--LGBTQ people are still invisible, marginalized, and the impact of that systemic discrimination is still felt today; and

WHEREAS, gender affirmation is imperative both for the psychological and social well-being of transgender people; and

WHEREAS, economic and social resource barriers prevent some people from obtaining legal documents that reflect their lived experience, those unable to obtain such documents still deserve protection from being doubly victimized and the psychological and potential physical harm that occurs from misgendering; and

WHEREAS, lack of gender affirmation causes reluctance in victims to report crimes; and

WHEREAS, lack of gender affirmation erodes trust between stakeholders working to provide a community that is inclusive and safe for all

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Austin LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission encourages the Austin City Council to support the efforts of the Austin Police Department to prevent misgendering future victims by use of a victim neutral affidavit.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Austin LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission encourages the Austin City Council to support the Austin Police Department in implementing with urgency the planned LGBTQ cultural competency training.

Date of Approval: February 11, 2019

Record of the vote: Adopted without objection (Martinez, Azhar, Baeza, Chavez, Curette, Curry, Daniels, Doughty, Gonzales, Hines, Skidmore, Taylor, Wollerson)

Attest: _____

Staff Liaison

