



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: (20230626-004): Recommendation to Austin City Council on erecting a historical marker on 4th and Colorado to commemorate the LGBTQI+ district and celebrate the progress made to expand the rights of all Texans.

WHEREAS, the city of Austin has a long-standing commitment to equity and the protection of the rights and well-being of all its residents; and

WHEREAS LGBTQIA2S individuals have historically faced discrimination, prejudice, and unequal treatment, and continue to experience growing levels of violence; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals are 9 times more likely to be victims of violent hate crimes than their counterparts and the FBI has reported a 70% increase in hate crimes against LGBTQIA2S individuals; and

WHEREAS Texas' criminal code enforced criminality of same-sex couple relations only 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS LGBTQIA2S Texans are our neighbors, teachers, faith leaders, employees, and an essential part of the fabric of this state and contribute to the richness and diversity of our city; and

WHEREAS, historic markers play a crucial role in preserving and honoring the diverse cultural heritage of communities, providing a tangible representation of struggles, achievements, and progress; and

WHEREAS, 4th and Colorado St in downtown Austin holds significant historical and cultural importance, serving as a prominent gathering place for the LGBTQIA2S community and hosting numerous events and institutions that have contributed to its vibrant history; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the historical significance of this location by installing an LGBTQ+ district historic marker will serve as a visible reminder of the community's resilience, struggles, and triumphs, fostering a sense of pride among LGBTQIA2S residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations and community leaders, including LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, local businesses, and residents, have expressed their support for the installation of an LGBTQIA2S district historic marker at 4th and Colorado St as a symbol of inclusivity, strength, and unity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission encourages the Austin City Council to coordinate with the Historic Landmark Commission to erect a LGBTQIA2S Historical Marker on 4th and Colorado as a symbol of the community's historical significance and contributions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission encourages the Austin City Council to gather input from LGBTQIA2S community leaders regarding the content and queer figures to highlight on the historic marker.

Date of Approval: June 26, 2023

Record of the vote: 9-0-1

**For:**

Chair I. Griffith, Vice Chair A. Weigel, G. Zeidan, M. Davis, K. Duhon, M. Krueger, M. Stevenson, L. Garcia, M. Aslam

**No Vote due to departing early:**

K. Brienzi

Attest:   
Idonda Griffith - Chair, Human Rights Commission