

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA,
WASHINGTON, IN SUPPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S MUNICIPAL
EQUALITY INDEX.**

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia values and respects all of its employees, citizens, visitors, and guests; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has a long record of pro-equality legislation and activity on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community and a very progressive history of inclusivity towards the LGBT population, including LGBT employees, employers, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, some of the most LGBT-friendly policies in the country have been generated and implemented at the municipal level, and we are leaders of a city that strives to be a welcoming and safe place for all employees and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia Police Department has appointed a liaison to address the needs of the LGBT population; and

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Manager has appointed a liaison to address the needs of the LGBT population; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), founded in 1980, is the largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for LGBT Americans; and

WHEREAS, the HRC advocates for the rights of LGBT people in the areas of hate crimes, federal and state legislation, safer schools, workplace non-discrimination, and marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, HRC initiated the Municipal Equality Index (MEI), the first nationwide evaluation of municipal laws, regulations, and policies affecting the LGBT communities, rating them on their inclusivity of LGBT people who live and work in those cities; and

WHEREAS, Olympia was first evaluated in the MEI in 2013 when HRC began to look at smaller cities across the United States and will be evaluated again in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the HRC has provided city officials with a road map of goals that will have a positive effect on the lives of our LGBT employees, citizens, visitors, and guests;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council express their support for the Human Rights Campaign's important work and the City's commitment to achieving the highest possible score on the Municipal Equality Index, a measure of performance deemed to be a valid gauge and a useful strategy plan to guide the City's progress toward equality for LGBT employees, citizens, visitors, and guests.

Section 2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and signature as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2014.

STEPHEN H. BUXBAUM, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY