Diverse Family Structure Legislation

City Council Meeting

February 24, 2026

Olympia™

Referral

- **Problem Statement:**
  Diverse families (single-parent, multi-generational, blended, chosen, non-monogamous) face systemic barriers in housing, healthcare, education, and services.

- **Proposal:**
  Add “family or relationship structure” as a protected category in City code.

- **Implementation & Enforcement:**
  Civil action by individuals or discretionary enforcement by City Attorney.
  Penalties: 3× actual harm or $1,000 minimum, plus attorney fees.

- **Equity Impact:**
  Supports inclusion, reduces discrimination, affirms non-traditional families in the community.

Establish OMC Chapter 7.01 Olympia Code Against Discrimination

- **Purpose:**

  Establish comprehensive protections against unlawful discrimination within Olympia

- **Creates:**

  New OMC Chapter 7.01 – Olympia Code Against Discrimination

- **Provides:**

  Civil enforcement remedies for violations

- **Closes Gaps:**

  Addresses lack of comprehensive citywide anti-discrimination policy

- **Expands Protections:**

  Covers discrimination based on

  - Race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin
  - Citizenship/immigration status
  - Age, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation
  - Familial status & family/relationship structures
  - Disability (including service animals)
  - Marital status
  - Housing vouchers (source of income protection)

Amend OMC Chapter 5.80 Unfair Housing Practices

- **Purpose:**

  Strengthen protections against housing discrimination

- **Amends:**

  OMC Chapter 5.80 – Unfair Housing Practices

- **Provides:**

  Civil enforcement remedies for violations

- **Closes Gaps:**

  Addresses identified legislative gaps in current housing code

- **Adds Protections for:**

  Family structures (traditional & nontraditional)

  Consensual relationship structures

- **Includes:**

  New/clarified definitions

  Civil enforcement remedies

Motions

- Move to approve an Ordinance enacting new OMC Chapter 7.01, Olympia Code Against Discrimination, to provide protections to Olympia residents against unlawful discrimination based upon race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, family and relationship structures, age, disability or other forms of unlawful discrimination, and providing for civil enforcement remedies.

- Move to approve an Ordinance amending OMC Chapter 5.80, Unfair Housing Practices, to include protections against discrimination based upon family and relationship structures, adding definitions, and providing for civil enforcement remedies.