

RESOLUTION NO. M-2591

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
DECLARING THE CITY OF OLYMPIA A SANCTUARY CITY FOR LGBTQIA2S+ PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia is committed to fostering a community where all individuals are treated with dignity, equity, and respect, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals face ongoing discrimination, violence, and systemic barriers that threaten their safety, well-being, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, transgender and non-binary people in particular have been vilified in political advertisements and Project 2025 outlines further plans to remove established rights and criminalize the existence of transgender people; and

WHEREAS, across the country there continues to be legislation enacted that targets LGBTQIA2S+ communities, threatening access to healthcare, education, and protections under the law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes the inherent worth and equal rights of all people, including LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, and seeks to provide a safe and welcoming environment for those who reside in or visit our city; and

WHEREAS, as a sanctuary city, Olympia commits to protecting and advocating for the rights of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals by rejecting policies and actions that promote discrimination, harm, or inequality, and embraces and supports Washington's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Olympia expands its Sanctuary City commitment to include LGBTQIA2S+ people; affirming its commitment to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel safe and supported.
2. The City of Olympia strongly believes in and affirms the right of individuals to:
 - a. Seek, obtain, provide, or facilitate gender-affirming care that is legal in Washington State or in other states where it would be legal had it occurred in Washington State;
 - b. Engage in speech or expression supporting LGBTQIA2S+ people; including but not limited to disseminating books and literature, holding discussions, and drag or other performances;

- c. To embrace and express their own authentic gender and sexuality and to define what gender and family means to them; including but not limited to dress and appearance, structuring a family unit that works best for them, and sharing LGBTQIA2S+ positive values with their children; and
 - d. To define their own gender and sex with or without regard to biological sex assigned at birth.
- 3. No City of Olympia resources, including, but not limited to, City property or time spent while on duty by a covered employee, shall be used for investigation, assisting an investigation, or detention of an individual on the basis of exercising their rights identified in section 2:
 - a. In the event any law or regulation is passed in the State of Washington which imposes criminal punishment, civil liability, administrative penalties, or professional sanctions, on an individual or organization exercising their rights identified in section 2, City personnel shall make enforcement of said law or regulation their lowest enforcement priority.
- 4. Whenever the City collects or disseminates information about an individual or individual's sex or gender, it will be without regard to biological sex assigned at birth. The City will not collect or disseminate information about sex assigned at birth, unless related to a criminal investigation of a violation of Washington State law.
- 5. The City will actively oppose legislation or actions at the state or federal level that threaten the rights, safety, or dignity of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
- 6. The City commits to ongoing engagement and collaboration with local LGBTQIA2S+ community and cultural leaders to:
 - a. Reduce barriers to accessing resources and support for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and organizations;
 - b. Maintain LGBTQIA2S+ liaison officers within the police department to act as points of contact, advocate for community members, and build trust; and
 - c. Collaborate with local LGBTQIA2S+ community and cultural leaders, working closely with event organizers to ensure public safety while prioritizing the needs and well-being of participants and attendees.
- 7. The City shall conduct regular reviews of its policies, practices, and public services to ensure they are inclusive, equitable, and affirming for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
- 8. The City of Olympia will continue to celebrate and uplift the voices and contributions of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals through public events, education, and partnerships with local organizations.
- 9. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is found to be unconstitutional or is otherwise held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of any remaining parts of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Olympia reaffirms its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice, ensuring that all members of our community can live authentically and without fear of discrimination or harm.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 28th day of January 2025.


David B. Pye
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Sean Kier
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber
CITY ATTORNEY