

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DISPLAY OF THE TRANSGENDER PRIDE FLAG

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 20, 2019

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is committed to fostering a diverse and welcoming community and ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity, respect, and protected from discrimination or harm; and

WHEREAS, no federal or State of Michigan law currently prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in employment, housing, or public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan's own Department of Civil Rights has concluded that anti-LGBT discrimination "exists and is significant" and that such discrimination has "direct negative economic effects on Michigan"; and

WHEREAS, discrimination impedes Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan's ability to attract and retain talented, hard working, determined people and by extension economic growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of state action by Michigan's legislature, forty-two Michigan communities have enacted local, comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinances; and

WHEREAS, March 31 has been recognized annually as "Transgender Day of Visibility" since 2009 when Michigan transgender activist Rachel Crandall founded the observance; and

WHEREAS, recent federal actions continue to restrict the rights of transgender students at school and those seeking to serve in our military, making it more important than ever to speak out in support; and

WHEREAS, transgender individuals are more likely to be fired or denied a job, face harassment and bullying at school, become homeless or live in extreme poverty, be evicted or denied housing or access to a shelter, be denied access to critical medical care, and face greater risk of abuse and violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of "Transgender Day of Visibility" which takes place on March 31, 2019 and in solidarity with and support of transgender people across the United States, Washtenaw County shall fly the transgender pride flag on Monday, April 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a reception will be held at the Washtenaw County Administration Building from 8:00am until 9:00am, with a flag raising ceremony at 8:30am; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners will continue work with the Jim Toy Community Center, Washtenaw County's LGBTQ Resource Center to support ongoing efforts to improve the lives of transgender individuals in our county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its commitment to fostering a diverse and welcoming community and ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity, respect, and protection from discrimination or harm.