

RESOLUTION

By Glidden

Establishing the Transgender Equity Council to serve as an advisory board to the City Council on matters of importance to the Transgender community.

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis strives to be an inclusive community; and

Whereas, for over twenty years the City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota have explicitly protected the rights of transgender and gender-nonconforming residents to be free from discrimination by prohibiting discrimination based on gender-identity; and

Whereas, federal courts and agencies throughout the nation have interpreted laws and regulations prohibiting sex discrimination to include discriminating against an individual because they are transgender or gender non-conforming; and

Whereas, in 2014 and 2015 Minneapolis received a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index, an index value that evaluates how inclusive cities' laws, policies, and services are of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; and

Whereas, much work has been done, but significant disparities still exist in virtually all areas including employment, healthcare, safety, housing, and access to public spaces; and

Whereas, according to the annual report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs titled Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2014 (released in 2015), there continues to be a “multi-year trend” indicating that hate violence disproportionately impacts the transgender community – particularly, women, youth and persons of color; and

Whereas, a Minneapolis Transgender Issues Work Group was formed through action of the City Council and Mayor in March 2014, and convened thereafter to examine transgender disparities and other issues, engage the broader community, and make policy recommendations for City government designed to improve the lives of Transgender residents of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Transgender Issues Work Group has hosted three Minneapolis Trans*Equity Summits (in 2014, 2015, and 2016) to support and continue to raise awareness of the social, legal and health issues critical for the transgender community; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis wishes to continue work that will lead to equity for all people, including transgender people; and

Whereas, the City Council and Mayor of Minneapolis passed a resolution in 2016 supporting continued efforts to further transgender equity in the City of Minneapolis, including the creation of a permanent advisory body;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the Transgender Equity Council is hereby established and that it shall operate according to the following structure.

The role of the Transgender Equity Council will be to provide a forum for issues of importance to the transgender community. The Council will study issues, courses of action, policies, and programs that affect the quality of life for Transgender residents and make recommendations for improvements to City departments and the City Council related to these issues. The Transgender Equity Council shall serve as a liaison between the City of Minneapolis and the transgender community and shall make every effort to ensure that the diverse viewpoints and interests of the transgender residents of Minneapolis are reflected in its course of work.

1. **Number of Members:** 15 voting members
2. **Term Length:** 24 months
3. **Term Limit:** Three (3) two-year terms
4. **Staggered Terms:** After the initial appointments in 2017, community members shall be appointed for two year terms in odd-numbered years starting in 2019 and public employee members shall be appointed to two year terms in even-numbered years starting in 2020.
5. **Compensation:** None
6. **City of Minneapolis open appointments process:** Yes
7. **Public Hearings held for appointees:** No
8. **Minneapolis Residency Requirement:** Yes as to community member appointments. These shall be residents of the city of Minneapolis who do not hold a current election certificate
9. **Membership structure:** 15 members
 1. Eight (8) community members:
 - a) Six (6) Council appointees
 - b) Two (2) Mayoral appointees
 2. Four (4) City of Minneapolis employee appointees:
 - a) Three (3) Council appointees
 - b) One (1) Mayoral appointee
 3. One (1) Minneapolis Park Board appointee
 4. One (1) Hennepin County appointee
 5. One (1) Minneapolis Public Schools appointee

In appointing members, care will be taken to consider diversity of membership, including but not limited to diversity based on gender, race, ethnicity, ability, and age.
10. **Supporting Department:** City Coordinators Office
11. **Reporting Requirements:** Submission of a biennial report to the City Council's Committee of the Whole detailing the work of the Council and outlining recommendations related to its findings
12. **Selection of officers:** A Chair, Vice-Chair, and any other officers shall be selected annually by the Transgender Equity Council members
13. **Open Meetings:** Meetings of the Council shall be open to the public, subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Open Meetings Law.