

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 23, 2022

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee

SUBJECT **Support for Dallas Transgender Community**

This week, March 21-25, 2022, commemorates the 20th National LGBTQ+ Health Awareness Week. The transgender community has endured decades of discrimination and unrest nationally and internationally. More recently, transgender persons have been refused transitioning related services by healthcare providers and have been treated discriminately due to their identity. Each year, Transgender Day of Visibility is recognized on March 31st. This day is dedicated to celebrating transgender persons and raising awareness of the violence and discrimination the community has faced worldwide.

In 2021, sixty-six transgender hate crimes occurred in the U.S., specifically targeting Black and Latinx transgender women, eight of these hate crimes took place in Texas. Unfortunately, many more cases go unreported or misreported. In the latest Texas legislative session, more than thirty anti-LGBTQ+ bills were filed, in which thirteen targeted transgender youth. Transgender individuals who reside in Dallas are from all walks of life and should be protected and supported. Although the City of Dallas continues to serve as a safe and welcoming environment for the transgender community, there is still much work to be done toward inclusivity, equity, and justice.

I am grateful for leadership at the City of Dallas, past and present, who have advocated with great conviction in building a more equitable community for our residents. As an inclusive city, it is imperative that we support and stand with the transgender community, including transgender people and youth of all races, ethnicities, religions, socioeconomic statuses, and education levels, to ensure they have access to the same quality of life as all persons in Dallas. Dallas embraces diversity and stands firmly against any form of discrimination and hate based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. The City values the uniqueness of our residents and stands with the youth, and their families, who deserve to be who they are, treated with dignity, and to receive equal treatment and protection. We support any action at the local, state and federal levels which serves both the physical and mental welfare of the transgender community. We condemn any attack on the transgender community and reaffirm our commitment to being an inclusive environment.

I encourage my colleagues to support a review of City ordinances, plans and/or resolutions to ensure they reflect the City's commitment to protect the rights of residents against discrimination and hate based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

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Adam Bazaldua
Council Member, District 7
Chairman, Quality of Life, Arts and Culture

c: Honorable Mayor and City Council
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Robert Perez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Interim Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis Gavino, Chief of Staff/Office of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors