

**RESOLUTION 34-2023 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH,
FLORIDA, DECLARING THE CITY A SAFE AND WELCOMING HAVEN
FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Worth Beach welcomes diversity and believes that all individuals in the City of Lake Worth Beach add to the quality of our lives and should be treated fairly, with respect and dignity, and with full human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the population of the City consists of people of every race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, age, disability, source of income, marital status, and familial status. Many of these people are discriminated against in employment opportunities, public accommodations, education, healthcare, and housing; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Worth Beach has a long and proud history of acceptance of all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, age, disability, source of income, marital status, and familial status, including but not limited to the areas of housing, public accommodation, education, healthcare, and employment; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Worth Beach recognizes and admonishes the increasing legislation denying respect and dignity particularly on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression across the United States; and,

WHEREAS, In the current 2023 legislative session, 491 such bills in 46 states have been introduced and many passed into law, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). These bills infringe on human rights and restrict fundamentals like healthcare and education and the basic enjoyment of their lives; and,

WHEREAS, in this hostile environment, cities, counties, and states across the country are taking steps to support and protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender-expansive people, especially youth. A 2022 survey by the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention group focused on LGBTQIA+ youth, found that 86 percent of transgender or nonbinary youth reported negative effects on their mental health stemming from the political debate around these human rights issues, and nearly half had seriously considered suicide in the past year; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Worth Beach is a welcoming environment to all and seeks to serve as a refuge of fairness, respect, and dignity for all individuals and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of Lake Worth Beach firmly states its commitment to protecting human rights for all individuals, and

believes that access to healthcare, education and peaceful enjoyment of their lives are fundamental rights to all people in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1: The City of Lake Worth Beach shall now and forever be considered a safe place, a sanctuary, a welcoming and supportive city for LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families to live in peace and comfort.

SECTION 2: This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

The passage of this resolution was moved by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

- Mayor Betty Resch
- Vice Mayor Christopher McVoy
- Commissioner Sarah Malega
- Commissioner Kimberly Stokes
- Commissioner Reinaldo Diaz

The Mayor thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted on the 5th day of September, 2023.

LAKE WORTH BEACH CITY COMMISSION

By: _____
Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Ann Coyne, City Clerk