

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA AFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING ALL RESIDENTS FROM DISCRIMINATION AND ITS COMMITMENT TO ENSURING ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE TREATED BY THE CITY WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS WHO SERVE DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES IN NORMAN.

§ 1. WHEREAS, on August 19, 1986, the City of Norman adopted Ordinance O-8687-2 prohibiting discrimination against citizens based on race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, age, place of birth, handicap, or familial status; and

§ 2. WHEREAS, on July 22, 2008, the City of Norman adopted Resolution R-0809-12 joining the National League of Cities' Partnership for Working toward Inclusive Communities and affirming inclusion as a fundamental aspect of the community; and

§ 3. WHEREAS, on May 28, 2019, the City of Norman adopted Resolution R-1819-114, an Accessibility and Inclusion Statement confirming the City's recognition of its responsibilities to provide equal access to employment; effective communication; and programs, activities and services provided by the City, as well as publishing the City's anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation policy; and

§ 4. WHEREAS, as reflected and codified in Section 8-102 of the Code of the City of Norman, as updated in 2019:

It is the policy of the City that the protection of civil rights is a matter of local concern and that in order to ensure public safety, public health, and the general welfare of all citizens of this community, no individual shall be denied equal protection of the laws, nor shall an individual be denied the enjoyment of his civil rights or be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, or marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

§ 5. That, the City remains committed to protecting all people from discrimination and targeting through investigation of crimes and enforcement of its applicable ordinances; and

§ 6. That, hate speech should not be tolerated and that all members of the community should be treated with respect and dignity; and

§ 7. That, the City supports its community mental health partners, who serve disenfranchised communities every day, and are essential in the healing process, and will work to help provide information about the mental health resources in our community on the City website.

Adopted this ____ day of June, 2023 by the Council of the City of Norman, Oklahoma.

Mayor Larry Heikkila