

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STEVENSON,  
WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY OF STEVENSON A SANCTUARY CITY FOR  
GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson is committed to fostering a community where all individuals are treated with dignity, equity, and respect, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical sex traits and appearance; and

WHEREAS, gender diverse individuals face ongoing discrimination, violence, and systemic barriers that threaten their safety, well-being, freedom, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, transgender people in particular have been vilified in political advertisements, and numerous policy proposals and Presidential executive orders outline plans to remove established rights, mandate discrimination, and criminalize the existence of transgender people; and

WHEREAS, across the country there continues to be an increase of legislation enacted that targets gender diverse communities, threatening access to public spaces, healthcare, education, and equal protections under the law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stevenson recognizes the inherent worth and equal rights of all people, including gender diverse individuals, and seeks to provide a safe and welcoming environment for those who reside in or visit our city; and

WHEREAS, as a sanctuary city, Stevenson commits to protecting and advocating for the rights of gender diverse individuals by rejecting policies and actions that promote discrimination or inequality, and embraces Washington's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE STEVENSON CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Stevenson establishes itself as a sanctuary city to protect gender diverse people, and commits to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical appearance, feel safe and supported and equally protected under the law.
2. The City of Stevenson strongly supports the right of individuals to:
  - a. Seek, obtain, provide, or facilitate gender-affirming or sexual health care that is legal in Washington State, and to exercise autonomy in decisions regarding their own bodies;

b. Engage in speech or expression supporting gender diverse people, including but not limited to disseminating books and literature, organizing events, protesting, and drag or other performances;

c. Express their own gender and sexuality and to define what gender and family means to them; including but not limited to dress and appearance, structuring a family unit that works best for them, and sharing these values with their children; and

d. Define their own gender and sex with or without regard to the sex assigned to them at birth.

3. No City of Stevenson resources, including but not limited to City property or time spent while on duty by a covered employee, shall be used for investigation, assisting an investigation, or detention of an individual on the basis of exercising their rights identified in section 2:

a. In the event any law or regulation is passed federally or in the State of Washington which imposes criminal punishment, civil liability, administrative penalties, or professional sanctions on an individual or organization exercising their rights identified in section 2, City personnel shall make enforcement of said law or regulation their lowest priority;

b. No City resources shall be used to assist any out-of-state investigation or prosecution of any person on the basis of laws that restrict the rights identified in section 2; and

c. No federal, state, or local ordinance shall be enforced unequally by the City or any entity contracting with the City on the basis of a person's expressed or perceived sex, physical sex traits, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

4. Whenever the City collects or disseminates information about an individual or their sex or gender, it will be without regard to sex assigned at birth. The City will not collect or disseminate information about sex assigned at birth unless required for an investigation of a violation of Washington State law.

5. The City will actively oppose legislation or actions at the state or federal level that threaten the rights, safety, or dignity of gender diverse individuals.

6. The City commits to ongoing engagement and collaboration with local LGBTQIA2S+ community members and organizations to:

a. Reduce barriers to accessing resources and support for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and organizations, and facilitate dissemination of information about said resources;

b. Increase availability of resources to directly address the crisis of homelessness, poverty, discrimination, abuse, and displacement of gender diverse individuals in the US;

c. Provide training and consultation to City staff, police, and any other relevant entities working with the City, to advocate for community members and build trust; and

d. Collaborate with local LGBTQIA2S+ community leaders, working closely with event organizers to ensure public safety while prioritizing the needs and well-being of participants.

7. The City shall conduct regular reviews of its policies, practices, public services, and contracts to ensure they are inclusive, equitable, and affirming for gender diverse individuals.

8. The City of Stevenson will continue to celebrate and uplift the voices and contributions of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals through public events, education, and partnerships with local organizations.

9. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is found to be unconstitutional or is otherwise held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of any remaining parts of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Stevenson affirms its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice, ensuring that all members of our community can live freely and without fear of discrimination or harm.