

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2023-016

Proclaiming March 31, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. March 31st, marks International Transgender Day of Visibility, a day to celebrate and elevate the voices and contributions of our gender expansive community of transgender, Two Spirit, Non-Binary, and Intersex people, among others, here in Multnomah County.
- B. This day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of our gender expansive community, while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to address anti-transgender violence and achieve lived equality.
- C. Members of the gender expansive community of Multnomah County have actively engaged in every aspect of life in our community, yet continue to face discrimination, harassment, and violence at rates much higher than cisgender community members. We recognize that these levels of hate and violence disproportionately affect Trans Femme individuals, particularly those who are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other Trans Femmes of color.
- D. The United States has a long history of anti-transgender violence and discrimination. Currently, active legislation across the country is targeting non-binary individuals through limiting the ability to update gender ID information; weakening nondiscrimination protections; censoring educational curriculum and performances that uplift non-binary communities; obstructing funding for gender-affirming healthcare services; and, unconscionably, going so far as to attempt to criminalize those who seek gender-affirming care for themselves or their family members and healthcare providers seeking to provide care for their patients.
- E. Multnomah County is not immune to transphobia. This last legislative session, HB 2458 was proposed to protect Queer and Trans people from being subjected to “conversion therapy”, which means providing professional services for the purpose of attempting to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity, by banning mental health care and social health professionals in Oregon from administering this harmful and dangerous practice. Although many people spoke up in support of protecting our Queer and Transgender community members, there was a concerted campaign to oppose HB 2458, and many residents of Multnomah County, including healthcare providers, spoke out against it.
- F. Youth in Multnomah County are still living in fear of isolation and violence.

Transgender and non-binary youth continue to report that they have been verbally or physically harmed due to their identity. Trans-inclusive schools are under attack. Gender-affirming teachers, curricula, and policies that are vital to the safety and well-being of trans/non-binary students are being systematically dismantled.

- G. Multnomah County is committed to fighting against this type of discrimination and supporting our gender expansive community members. We also recognize that our progressive policies and speaking out against anti-transgender legislation and rhetoric do not make us impervious to the inequities caused by transphobia.
- H. Multnomah County and the Office of Diversity and Equity are committed to honoring the contributions of our gender expansive employees and supporting the organizations that work tirelessly as we strive for a workplace that fosters Safety, Trust, and Belonging. As we “Inclusively Lead with Race”, we recognize that our BIPOC gender expansive employees face unique multiple barriers due to institutional racism and transphobia.
- I. Multnomah County will continue to translate our values into action, lifting up and prioritizing the needs of our gender expansive community as we seek to ensure every community member has access to the services and resources they need.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

March 31st, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Multnomah County, Oregon, and with this proclamation affirms commitment to support our gender expansive community.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of March, 2023.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Meieran, District 1 Commissioner