

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 13-19, 2023 AND TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20th) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor her memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Transgender Awareness Week (November 13-19), celebrated throughout the week prior to Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20), is a time to uplift and recognize transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming voices and experiences; and

WHEREAS, it's estimated that 1.6 million youth and adults in the U.S. identify as transgender, including over 134,000 of whom are American veterans, and over 15,000 of whom are actively serving in military today; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey showed that 30% of transgender respondents suffered mistreatment in the workplace, 23% were evicted or denied housing, 29% were living in poverty, 47% were sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime, and 77% of transgender students were harassed or mistreated; and

WHEREAS, 2021 was the deadliest year on record for transgender and gender nonconforming people in the United States, and those murdered were almost all Black and Brown women; and

WHEREAS, despite these troubling statistics and continued attempts in some states to enact legislation that threatens the rights and safety of transgender people, the transgender and gender nonconforming community is resilient; and

WHEREAS, 2019 Oregon Senate Bill 577 clarified that gender identity is a protected class in Oregon, and 2021 Oregon House Bill 3041 further clarified existing anti-discrimination protections by creating a standalone definition for "gender identity" and by adding it to all statutes that reference "sexual orientation(s)"; and

WHEREAS, transgender and gender nonconforming people live successful, full, and joyous lives, contributing to our community's culture in many ways, and their invaluable contributions and enduring activism can never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, becoming an ally to the transgender community is an ongoing process and requires learning through education and awareness; and

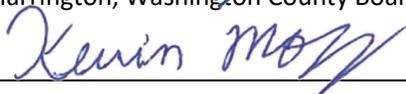
WHEREAS, this Board wishes to recognize and celebrate Washington County's transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming employees and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 14th day of November 2023, the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim November 13th – 19th, 2023 as Transgender Awareness Week and November 20th, 2023 as Transgender Day of Remembrance in Washington County; and urge all community residents to celebrate trans joy and to continue working towards eliminating discrimination and injustice wherever it exists.





Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair



Recording Secretary

23-273

Minute Order