

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING MAY 17, 2021 AS “DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA, AND BIPHOBIA” IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

WHEREAS, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, celebrated annually on May 17, was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics; and

WHEREAS, the date of May 17 was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization’s decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder; and

WHEREAS, May 17 is now celebrated in more than 130 countries, including 37 countries where same-sex acts are illegal; and

WHEREAS, May 17 represents a major global annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, and local authorities, to the alarming situation faced by people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 national study conducted by the Center for American Progress found that many LGBTQ people continue to face discrimination in their personal lives, in the workplace and the public sphere, and in their access to critical health care – leading to many adverse consequences for their financial, mental, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, major findings from the study include:

- More than 1 in 3 LGBTQ Americans faced discrimination of some kind in the past year, including more than 3 in 5 transgender Americans.
- Discrimination adversely affects the mental and economic well-being of many LGBTQ Americans, including 1 in 2 who report moderate or significant negative psychological impacts.
- To avoid the experience of discrimination, more than half of LGBTQ Americans report hiding a personal relationship, and about one-fifth to one-third have altered other aspects of their personal or work lives.
- Around 3 in 10 LGBTQ Americans faced difficulties last year accessing necessary medical care due to cost issues, including more than half of transgender Americans.
- 15 percent of LGBTQ Americans report postponing or avoiding medical treatment due to discrimination, including nearly 3 in 10 transgender individuals.

- Transgender individuals faced unique obstacles to accessing health care, including 1 in 3 who had to teach their doctor about transgender individuals in order to receive appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia contribute to disparities in physical and mental health indicators such as depression, substance use, cancer, and experiences of abuse and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention further report that homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia limit an individual's ability to access high-quality health care and negatively affect such individual's income and employment status; and

WHEREAS, in addition, over the last few years, there has been a disturbing proliferation of anti-trans bills, specifically targeting transgender and nonbinary people for discrimination, such as by barring or criminalizing healthcare for transgender youth, barring access to the use of appropriate facilities like restrooms, restricting transgender students' ability to fully participate in school and sports, allowing religiously-motivated discrimination against trans people, or making it more difficult for trans people to get identification documents with their name and gender; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, approximately thirty (30) states have introduced and are considering legislation that would ban transgender students from competing on school sports teams that align with their gender identities; and

WHEREAS, so far South Dakota, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, West Virginia, and Tennessee have already enacted sports bans this year, with a similar bill in Florida pending Governor DeSantis' signature; and

WHEREAS, these broadly unpopular bills are not only damaging to trans youth and anti-science, but further stigmatize and contribute to on-going violence against trans people; and

WHEREAS, transgender Americans of all ages face high rates of violence, harassment, and discrimination; nearly one in three transgender Americans have experienced homelessness at some point in life; many transgender Americans continue to face discrimination in employment, housing, health care, and public accommodations; and the on-going crisis of violence against transgender women, especially transgender women of color, is a stain on our Nation's conscience; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, a study of 27,715 transgender adults, found that 77 percent of those who were out or perceived as transgender in K-12 were harassed, physically or sexually assaulted, or faced other forms of mistreatment because of being transgender, and nearly 1 in 5 (17 percent) were forced to leave a school because of the severity of mistreatment that they faced; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, the Human Rights Campaign (“HRC”) and other LGBTQ advocacy groups have tracked more than 180 cases of anti-transgender fatal violence across more than 33 states, spanning across 113 cities and towns in 33 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the HRC has recorded at least 33 violent deaths of transgender or gender non-conforming persons, representing more violent deaths of transgender or gender non-conforming people than any year since tracking began in 2013; and

WHEREAS, at least 11 transgender people have been murdered so far in 2021 — a 266 percent increase from this point in 2020, when three trans people had been murdered; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the victims so far in 2021, are Black trans women; and

WHEREAS, Black and Brown transgender women in particular face dehumanizing stigma -- a stigma that is only worsened by systemic racism and sexism, which, in combination with the all-too-common denial of opportunity to succeed in school and on the job, puts these women at increased risk of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, engagement in survival sex work, and risk of poverty and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission support the goals and ideals of an International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, and stand together with, and in support of, all members of the LGBTQ community as we strive to ensure justice and protection for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA that the Mayor and the City hereby declare May 17, 2021 as “Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia” in the City of Miami Beach.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granada, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner David Richardson)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *EA*

5-4-21
Date