



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Pam Foley
Councilmember Omar Torres

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 20, 2023

Approved

Date 09/14/2023

SUBJECT: Resolution Affirming Support of the Transgender and Broader LGBTQ+ Communities

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for discussion and consideration at an upcoming City Council Meeting the adoption of the attached resolution affirming the City of San José's support of the transgender and broader LGBTQ+ communities.

BACKGROUND

Since the first pride flag raising at San José City Hall in June of 2001, the City of San José has demonstrated acceptance and support for the LGBTQ+ community in San José. Most recently, the City of San José proclaimed Silicon Valley Pride Month in August 2023 again reaffirming the City's commitment to embracing and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

Everyone should feel welcome in San José, including our LGBTQ+ community members. San José is a city that celebrates diversity and open-mindedness. Acceptance for LGBTQ+ children and youth is particularly important. A lack of understanding and acceptance for these groups contributes to higher rates of isolation, depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts.

Nationwide, LGBTQ+ rights, especially the rights of transgender individuals, are under attack. These attacks are perpetrated by those who seek to marginalize LGBTQ+ folks, especially in schools. While San José is a leader, our community is not immune to homophobia, transphobia, and bigotry. Groups such as Informed Parents Silicon Valley are operating to diminish the understanding and acceptance of LGBTQ+ people in our community through our schools.

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The attached resolution reaffirms that the City of San José is a welcoming and supportive place for the LGBTQ+ community and makes clear that hate and efforts to marginalize LGBTQ+ people have no place in our city.