

RESOLUTION

Resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance was first recognized on November 20, 1999 to honor the life of Rita Hester, a transgender woman of color whose murder in 1998 has yet to be solved; and

WHEREAS, November 20th has since been recognized annually as Transgender Day of Remembrance to call attention to the epidemic of violence and discrimination against transgender people and to memorialize the lives lost each year as a result; and

WHEREAS, Transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary individuals claim many diverse identities and are beloved members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Violence targeting transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary people disproportionately impacts transgender women of color - making Black transgender women the most targeted community to experience violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Transgender people are murdered or die at rates far above other communities from the impacts of poverty and other socio-economic barriers to affordable and stable housing, gender-affirming healthcare, and safe employment and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, The continued introduction of anti-transgender legislation in communities across the United States has fueled violence and discrimination against our transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary neighbors in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of all transgender people will attempt suicide at least once, and over one-in-twenty transgender individuals will attempt suicide each year, a rate that is almost ten times higher any other community; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Commission on Human Relations “2024 Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents Report” lists hundreds of hate crimes, hate incidents, and crimes of bias against the transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer communities since beginning to collect data in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Violence targeting the transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary people is routinely underreported or misreported, impacting the community’s ability to advocate and track progress and law enforcement’s ability to prevent and resolve crimes; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance has grown to celebrate the resilience of transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary people and their invaluable contributions to the social and economic fabric of our communities despite extreme institutional discrimination and violence; and

WHEREAS, Trans-led organizations such as Chicago Therapy Collective, Trans Chicago, Life Is Work Resource Center, and Brave Space Alliance; allied organizations and care groups such as Trans Life Center at the Center on Halsted, Taskforce, Project Vida, Trans CARE (Clinic for Affirmation and Reproductive Equity) at UChicago Medicine, Pride Action Tank, El Rescate, Howard Brown Health, Affinity Community Services, Equality Illinois, Advocates For Trans Equality, and the Rush Gender Affirming Care Clinic; and councils such as the Chicago LGBTQ+ Advisory Board and the Chicago Gender Based Violence Task Force, have demonstrated tremendous leadership and courage to advance the visibility and well-being of the transgender community, and we are grateful for their guidance; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, honor the lives of our loved ones, neighbors, and fellow Chicagoans lost from violence against transgender people and condemn all acts of violence, discrimination, and harassment targeting transgender people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, commit to collaborating with local organizations to raise awareness about the challenges faced by transgender, gender-nonconforming, and non-binary communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, recognize the urgent need to take effective action to protect and uplift transgender lives through legislation and initiatives that promote inclusivity, equity, and safety for transgender people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Chicago City Council, can model a more inclusive and safe environment for our transgender coworkers and neighbors by increasing the representation of the transgender community in spaces where decisions impacting their lives are made, by collaborating with other units of government to improve policy at all units of government, and by further coordinating the education and training of City workers regarding inclusive practices and policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Chicago will continue to recognize November 20th each year as Transgender Day of Remembrance.