

Proclamation

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2 million transgender and gender non-conforming people across the United States. The transgender community has always existed and is a diverse community representing all generations, faith traditions, abilities, race and ethnicity comprising different fields of work and social backgrounds. The transgender community is comprised of neighbors, parents, grandparents, siblings, youth, active services members and vets, students, coworkers, and friends; and

WHEREAS, we cannot simply celebrate visibility without also recognizing that it does not always equal justice; still far too many transgender and gender non-conforming people, in particular trans youth and trans women of color, continue to face profound threats to their safety, rights and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, we also celebrate the beauty and endurance of transgender and gender non-conforming people through history and of those who are with us today. We recognize that transgender and gender non-conforming people have contributed and continue to contribute in countless ways to the betterment of our society and our city, often working at the forefront of social justice and human rights work, while profoundly overcoming significant hardships to build vibrant and thriving communities, often in the face of systemic and interpersonal prejudice, discrimination, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the transgender and gender non-conforming community has made profound strides in challenging social and political norms that have forced many to live in secrecy regarding their gender identity, subjecting them to coercive medical and psychological treatments, and denying employment and housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, civil rights victories won by transgender and gender non-conforming activists have expanded judicial recognition of constitutional protections for gender identity and expression, and provided a greater number of people with the basic protections needed to ensure human dignity and self-determination. However, these rights are still not universally guaranteed, with laws varying by state and locality and regressive measures still being pursued; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver continues to work toward becoming an inclusive and just community in which all community members are respected, honored and recognized for who they are regardless of gender, and their contributions to our community, state, country, and world; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Vancouver, we believe in the inherent value of each and every community member of our city, our transgender and gender non-conforming youth, without exception; and

WHEREAS, we are immensely proud of the countless contributions of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the City of Vancouver and throughout this nation; this day, and throughout the year, we urge our community to see, hear and honor transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and continue to fight for equality and opportunity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, Washington, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2023 as:

“International Transgender Day of Visibility”

in the City of Vancouver and call upon the people of Vancouver to honor this observance with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Vancouver to be affixed this 20th day of March 2023.

Anne McEnery-Ogle

ANNE McENERY-OGLE, MAYOR