



Reggie Harris
Councilmember

March 9, 2022

Transgender Day of Visibility & the Raising of the Transgender Flag ('22)

MOTION

We hereby move that on March 31, 2022, the City of Cincinnati raise a Transgender flag in recognition of, celebration of, and solidarity with our transgender residents — on the international day of visibility for transgender people.

- And, that in light of procedural time sensitivity, this motion be considered an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare, making it effective immediately.

STATEMENT

History of Transgender Day of Visibility: In 2009 Rachel Crandall, a U.S.-based transgender activist, founded this day to raise awareness for the incredible burden of discrimination the community faces in every setting imaginable. The need to bring a day of 'visibility' for the transgender community is indicative of the oppression they face in many sectors of life. Crandall wanted to highlight the fact that the only transgender-centric day that is internationally recognized is Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is in mourning of members of the community who had lost their lives, and that there was no day to pay homage to living transgender people. By 2014, the day was observed by activists in Ireland and Scotland while, in 2015, many transgender people took part in the event by participating in social media campaigns. They successfully made the day go viral by posting selfies and personal stories.

Therefore, on Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, annually, we recognize and revere their contributions, successes, and relentless resilience in standing tall and strong in the face of injustice. Through this Day of Visibility, we hope to induce moral responsibility and tolerance, and lift the restrictions on the rights of transgender people.

History of Transgender Flag: The trans pride flag was designed by Monica Helms, an openly transgender American woman, in August 1999. It was first shown at a Phoenix, Arizona LGBT pride celebration the following year. Helms describes the meaning of the transgender flag as follows: "The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives."

Citations:

<https://nationaltoday.com/transgender-day-visibility/>

<https://www.pointofpride.org/blog/the-history-of-the-transgender-flag>