

City of Cincinnati

An Ordinance No. _____

CNS

EESW

- 2025

ESTABLISHING Cincinnati's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities ("LGBTQIA+") Commission, to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council, and the Administration are committed to working with individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities ("LGBTQIA+") to more comprehensively address the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community's concerns and needs; and

WHEREAS, a formally-appointed LGBTQIA+ Commission will help broaden the perspectives of those presently serving in City government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Council, and the Administration value enacting legislation and policies that advance social, economic, and political equality for the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community and believe incorporating those ideas will make Cincinnati a better place; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will provide LGBTQIA+ individuals with additional opportunities to play a valuable role within the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the City values the input of agencies and organizations who work on LGBTQIA+ issues and seeks to have such groups represented on the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission will assist the Mayor, Council, and the Administration in their review of policies and programs that will make a positive change in the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Cincinnati Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and other sexual and gender identities ("LGBTQIA+") Commission is established to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on all issues of concern for LGBTQIA+ individuals within Cincinnati. The Commission shall:

1. Serve as an advisory body to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration on issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community;
2. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration with the aim of improving the ability of the City and its contractors to serve, support, and employ members of the LGBTQIA+ community;

3. Recommend to the Mayor, Council, and the Administration measures designed to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity and affordability, mobility, cultural and learning opportunities, and government access and accountability for the LGBTQIA+ community;
4. Coordinate and participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQIA+ community, and facilitate events to improve understanding and craft solutions for issues of concern to the LGBTQIA+ community;
5. Collaborate with other City boards and commissions to address issues of intersectionality, as appropriate;
6. Create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQIA+ quality of life initiatives; and
7. Report in person to the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee of Council at least annually, or another appropriate committee of Council in the event the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee is disbanded.

Section 2. That the LGBTQIA+ Commission shall consist of eleven members. Of initial appointments, six members shall be appointed for terms of two years, and the remaining five members shall be appointed for terms of one year. Thereafter all members shall be appointed for terms of two years. All members shall serve without compensation. Members may serve for no more than two consecutive two-year terms, excluding members who were appointed for an initial one-year term and excluding any partial term when a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term. After serving two full consecutive two-year terms, members are eligible for reelection after a one-year absence from the Commission.

Section 3. The Mayor shall appoint members of the LGBTQIA+ Commission after receiving recommendations from the existing Commission and from the public at-large. The initial members of the Commission shall be recommended by the initial advisory group that proposed the creation of the Commission, with input from stakeholders that support LGBTQIA+ interests. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to Council approval.

1. The LGBTQIA+ Commission shall consist of eleven voting members that must satisfy the following specifications:

- a. One representative from Greater Cincinnati Human Rights Campaign (HRC);
 - b. One representative from Cincinnati Pride;
 - c. One representative from Caracole;
 - d. One representative from Cincinnati Black Pride;
 - e. One representative from TreeHouse Cincinnati, Inc.; and
 - f. Six at-large members.
2. These appointments shall endeavor to mirror a diversity of ethnicity, national origin, race, color, disability, gender, gender ideology, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic level. The Commission should include members who are broadly reflective of and sensitive to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community's diverse population and residents of multiple Cincinnati neighborhoods.
 3. Of the six at-large members appointed to the Commission, at least three must be residents of the City.
 4. The City Manager may appoint a City liaison who is knowledgeable about the procedures and methods of operations of the various City departments to serve as a non-voting member of the LGBTQIA+ Commission and to advise on how best to coordinate the Commission's efforts with the Administration.
 5. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules and procedures to govern how it shall conduct its affairs, provided that the adopted rules and procedures may not conflict with state law or the municipal code. The rules and procedures shall be reviewed by the Commission in conjunction with the City Solicitor's Office from time to time.
 6. If a position on the Commission is prematurely vacated, that position shall be filled at the earliest possible time through appointment of a person having qualifications for that vacated position and to complete the remainder of the succeeded member's term.
 7. The Commission shall select its officers. However, the initial Chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor.
 8. The Commission may recommend to the Mayor that a Commission member be removed for cause upon a majority vote of seated members. Cause includes, but is not limited to, a member's absence at two consecutive meetings, or three combined absences from meetings in a one-year period.

Section 4. That the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission shall meet a minimum of six times per year at a time and place to be determined by the Commission. A majority of seated voting

members, present in-person or virtually, shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary for the transaction of business.

Section 5. That the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission shall convene no later than 120 days after the effective date of this ordinance and is encouraged to report back to the Mayor, Council, and Administration within six months to present its initial recommendations.

Section 6. That any meetings of the LGBTQIA+ Commission shall be subject to the Ohio Open Meetings Act (R.C. 121.22 et seq.) and Ohio Open Records Law (R.C. 149.43 et seq.).

Section 7. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk