

City of Cincinnati



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MOTION

WE MOVE that Cincinnati City Council approve the establishment of an LGBTQIA+ Commission to advise City Council and the administration on an ongoing basis about issues of concern and policy recommendations. The members of the commission would be appointed by the Mayor and commissioners would not receive any remuneration for their service. A draft of the proposed Ordinance is attached.


Vice Mayor Jan-Michele L. Kearney

STATEMENT

Students at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine as well as members of the Cincinnati community expressed the need for the City of Cincinnati to establish a commission to assist the City in identifying and addressing needs and concerns of the LGBTQIA+ community.

According to GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), a non-governmental organization that advocates for LGBTQ+ people, hate crimes against the LGBTQIA+ community increased in Ohio by 189% between 2022 and 2023. It was reported that from June 2022 to June 2024, GLAAD tracked 70 anti-LGBTQ+ incidents that took place in Ohio including arson, assault, a bomb threat, vandalism, and harassment. Eighteen of the incidents occurred from June 2022- June 2023, while 52 incidents took place from June 2023-June 2024 (a 189% increase). It must be noted that many hate crimes are not reported.

The commission would be a resource to further the City's strong commitment to being a welcoming, inclusive community.

DRAFT ORDINANCE

Amending [Title II of Cincinnati's Municipal Code that address boards, commissions, and committees] by enacting a new [section] entitled "Cincinnati's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and other sexual identities and gender identities that are not included in the acronym (LGBTQIA+)" to formally establish such Commission.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council are committed to working with the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community to address their concerns and needs; and

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

WHEREAS, the City values enacting legislation, policies, programs, procedures or administrative actions that advance social, economic and political equality for the Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ community and believes incorporating those ideas will make the City a better place; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will provide LGBTQIA+ individuals the opportunity to play a productive role within the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the City values the input of agencies and organizations who work on LGBTQIA+ issues and has a desire to have such groups represented on the Commission; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF CINCINNATI, OHIO:

Section 1. [Title II of the Cincinnati's Municipal Code that addresses boards, commissions, and committees and the affected sections are referenced here] to formally establish such Commission, said sections to read as follows:

Sec. 2-970.60. Purpose.

The Cincinnati LGBTQIA+ Commission will assist and support city leadership by serving as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on LGBTQIA+ matters and recommending legislation, policies, programs, procedures or administrative actions that advance social, economic and political equality for the LGBTQIA+ community, or oppose those that do not and making the City a better place for all in which to live.

DRAFT ORDINANCE

(a) The Commission shall:

- (1) Serve as an advisory body to the City Council regarding issues actually or potentially affecting persons within the LGBTQIA+ community or the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole;
- (2) Serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to the City Council and any identified City departments with the aim of improving the ability of the City and its vendors, contractors, and consultants to serve, support, and employ the LGBTQIA+ community;
- (3) Recommend to the City Council 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/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQIA+ community, and facilitate gatherings such as meetings, institutes, forums, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding and crafting of solutions for issues of concern of the LGBTQIA+ community;
- (5) Work with other City Commissions to address issues of intersectionality; and
- (6) Create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQIA+ quality of life initiatives.
- (7) Collaborate with other commissions and committees as appropriate.
- (8) The commission shall report in person at least twice annually to the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee.

(b) The Commission shall provide an annual report to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager on its activities and recommendations on matters and City programs affecting the LGBTQIA+ community in the City.

Sec. 2-970.63. Meetings; Rules and Procedures.

(a) The Commission shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per year at a time and place determined by the commission.

(b) A quorum shall consist of a majority of seated members present in-person and/or virtually.