

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to be a leader on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, gendered restroom facilities can present uncomfortable and even dangerous situations for gender non-conforming Austinites; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ rights organization, has recently launched a campaign to promote all-gender restrooms; and

WHEREAS, colleges and other civic institutions across the country, such as Northwestern University and the City of Philadelphia, are establishing requirements for the provision of all-gender restrooms; and

WHEREAS, Washington, D.C., requires local businesses to provide all-gender signage on single-occupancy restrooms and recently adopted a program that utilizes social media to identify non-compliant businesses, which allows city staff to educate the businesses and to gain compliance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supporting people who are transgender or gender non-conforming, gender-free bathrooms are also helpful to people with disabilities, people with personal attendants, people with children, and the employees and customers of businesses with limited available restrooms; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to process any necessary code amendments to require gender-neutral signage for single-occupancy restrooms, to create an implementation plan, and to report back to Council by September 25, 2014. The proposed code amendments and implementation plan should be presented to stakeholders including, but not limited to, the City of Austin Human Rights Commission, the Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Transgender Education Network of Texas, Equality Texas, and local stakeholders such as Legalize Human and GSR (Gender, Sexuality, and Relationships) Communities for recommendations.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk