

RESOLUTION NO. 19-1024

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT TO BE THE POLICY OF THE CITY OF OLATHE, KANSAS, TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Olathe recognizes that individuals with different cultures, perspectives and experiences are at the heart of the growth and prosperity of the City; and

WHEREAS, the full inclusion and acceptance of all people is fair and just and in the City's best interest; and

WHEREAS, discrimination in all of its forms, including but not limited to discrimination on the basis of age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, is unjust and presents a stumbling block to the growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, the community confirmed the importance of equality in a broad based publicly affirmed engagement during its strategic planning effort ("Olathe 2040"); and

WHEREAS, Olathe 2040 identified, as a component of the City's vision, a welcoming and inclusive community where people of all ages and from diverse backgrounds are engaged; and

WHEREAS, the City Prosecutor's Office currently offers a Community Mediation Program as a forum for all Olathe residents, at no cost, to resolve disputes and disagreements involving many types of matters, including, but not limited to, housing, employment, and public accommodations, without the use of formal investigative processes or the threat of civil or criminal legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body recognizes that issues related to discrimination are best addressed and most effectively handled at the State and Federal level; and

WHEREAS, there is currently legislation pending in the Kansas State Legislature associated with the equality of individuals based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to encourage the Kansas State Legislature to debate comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OLATHE, KANSAS:

SECTION ONE: The City of Olathe, Kansas hereby declares it to be the policy of the City to reject discrimination of any kind and to respect the inherent worth of every person, without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

SECTION TWO: The Governing Body of the City hereby encourages all Olathe residents to utilize the Community Mediation Program as a forum to resolve disputes and disagreements, including those which involve housing, employment, and/or public accommodations.

SECTION THREE: The Governing Body of the City hereby encourages the Kansas State Legislature to debate comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.

SECTION FOUR: This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body this _____ day of _____, 2019.

SIGNED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney