



News from

Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego — District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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Committee Recommends Update to City's Nondiscrimination Policy *Council Will Now Consider Adding Gender Identity and Gender Expression*

SAN DIEGO, CA (March 18, 2015) – Councilmember Todd Gloria today announced the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee recommended approval of an amendment to add gender identity and gender expression as types of unlawful discrimination to the City of San Diego's Nondiscrimination in Contracting Ordinance. The Committee voted unanimously to forward the amendment to the full City Council for consideration. A hearing date in April is anticipated.

"We cannot and should not award contracts to any business that discriminates against anyone, including transgender people," said Councilmember Gloria.

Gender identity refers to both an individual's sense of self regarding characteristics labeled as masculine, feminine, both, neither or in-between. Gender expression means a person's gender-related appearance and behavior whether or not stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. The State of California Government Code includes both as protected classes for purposes of employment.

In the fall of 2014, the Human Rights Campaign released its annual Municipality Equality Index, a point based system that examines a city's laws and policies based on their inclusivity of the LGBT people who live there. San Diego scored exceptionally well, earning 100 out of 100 points. A few of those were considered bonus points, meaning there was still an area the city could improve. The city missed two points because its City Contractor Non-Discrimination Ordinance did not include gender identity.

"Even with an A+ for equality, I knew we could do better," said Councilmember Gloria, who worked with city staff on the development of the amendment.

If the City Council approves the amendment, the types of unlawful discrimination would be listed as: "race, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, or disability" in four sections of the San Diego Municipal Code, Chapter 2, Article 2, Division 35. The city's Human Relations Commission and the Police Department Citizens' Review Board both recommended the update.

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