

**THIS IS A DRAFT AND WILL BE REPLACED BY THE FINAL, SIGNED
ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL**

ORDINANCE

**ESTABLISHING
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER+ (LGBTQ+)
ADVISORY BOARD**

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WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio is proud to call itself a welcoming and compassionate City that is committed to providing all our residents regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, equitable access to our City; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio passed the Non-Discrimination Ordinance in 2013 prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, sex and gender identity consistent with the advocacy efforts of the LGBTQ+ community and many other supportive organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Mayor Ron Nirenberg created the ad hoc Mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, with the purpose of providing recommendations on City policies to prohibit discrimination based on one's sexual orientation, sex, gender identity and gender expression and to promote equity for all San Antonions; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, with the assistance of Councilmember Roberto Treviño, District One, and Methodist Healthcare System, the Pride Center San Antonio, opened its doors. The Center connects LGBTQ+ people to free services, including case management, counseling and referrals to community resources. The Center has built community awareness, and strengthened community pride; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Strengthening Colors of PRIDE, a research project of The Center - Pride Center San Antonio, Trinity University, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation conducted a groundbreaking survey with the largest of LGBTQ+ identified individuals ever in South Texas; Reviewing a diverse array of topics from employment, housing, healthcare, public safety, discrimination, and systems of support for community members, the survey identified community needs specific to San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio continues growing and strengthening services for the LGBTQ+ communities, earning the City consistent full credit in the Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index which measures City services and representation for LGBTQ+ communities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s LGBTQ+ advisory committee spearheaded the establishment of gender neutral bathrooms in city buildings, coordinated a town hall with the Mayor and the LGBTQ+ community and successfully advocated raising the Pride flag over City Hall during Pride Month.

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

Section 1. Creation. Creation of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board is hereby approved.

Section 2. Appointments. The 13 members of the Board will be appointed the Mayor and City Council with the Mayor appointing 3 designees and each City Council members of the other 10 Districts with one designee.

Section 3. Categories. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board should have a balanced membership reflecting the challenges and concerns of LGBTQ+ communities and should represent a diversity of ethnicity, national origin, race, color, disability, religion, gender, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, age, and socioeconomic level. The commission should include members who are broadly reflective of and sensitive to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community's diverse population.

Section 4. Purpose. The board shall:

- (1) serve as an advisory body to the city council regarding issues actually or potentially affecting persons within the LGBTQ+ community or the LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ community;
- (4) coordinate and/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ community;
- (5) work with other city commissions to address issues of intersectionality;
- (6) create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ+ quality of life initiatives; and
- (7) perform additional functions as required by the city council.

Section 5. Term. Terms shall be in accordance with the City's rules for Boards and Commissions, codified in Chapter 2, Article IX of the City Code.

Section 6. Requirements. The Board is subject to the City of San Antonio’s Ethics Code and the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Section 7. Compensation. Members will not be compensated for service on the Board, committees, or any subcommittees.

Section 8. Chair and Vice Chair, or Officers. Commission Officers shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by a majority vote of the entire Commission at a meeting held for such purpose.

Section 9. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective immediately upon receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective on the 10th day after passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of March, 2024.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

Andrew Segovia, City Attorney