

Resolution No. 1469-2025

**Council Members Spencer, Maurer,
Welch and Gray**

FOR ADOPTION
November 17, 2025

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Recognizing Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2025, and annually to honor the memory of transgender individuals whose lives were taken by anti-transgender violence; and reaffirming the City of Cleveland as a community where transgender individuals are welcome, and our commitment to transgender equality and codified anti-discrimination protections and laws for our LGBTQ+ community.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland is home to a diverse and inclusive community; and

WHEREAS, on Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2025, and annually, the City of Cleveland will gather as a community to honor and uplift the memory of those transgender individuals whose lives were taken by hate and violence; and

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998; the day serves to raise awareness about the violence faced by transgender individuals and to honor those who have been lost to such violence with events held in cities around the world; and

WHEREAS, this year, we also hold space for those we have lost to suicide, recognizing that these losses are too often the result of the daily, relentless pressures and systemic harms faced by our transgender and gender-expansive community members; and

WHEREAS, together with our community, this Council remembers their lives with love, acknowledges the pain of their absence, and recommits to creating a future where all of us can live safely, openly, and fully; and

WHEREAS, Trans existence is a testament to authenticity and courage — a reflection of the strength it takes to live fully and openly in a world that does not always make space for it; every act of showing up as oneself is a declaration of hope and self-love; and

WHEREAS, this Council reaffirms the City's commitment to transgender equality and laws already enacted and codified that protect our LGBTQ+ community against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, for example, Cleveland Codified Ordinance Sections 667.01, 667.05, and 663.02 prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodation and employment because of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression along with other protected classes; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Codified Ordinance Sections 187.15 and 187.22, prohibit a City contractor from discriminating against any employee or applicant and require the contractor to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression along with other protected classes; and

WHEREAS, among other duties included in Codified Ordinance Section 143.02, the Director of Human Resources is required to formulate a plan of education or promote fair employment practices by employers, labor unions, employees, employment agencies and the general public to eliminate employment discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression along with other protected classes; the Director is also required to cooperate with and provide technical assistance to these entities for the elimination of such employment discrimination; and

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WHEREAS, lastly, Codified Ordinance Section 667.06 prohibits the practice of conversion therapy, that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, by a mental health professional on minors; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That this Council recognizes Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2025, and annually to honor the memory of transgender individuals whose lives were taken by anti-transgender violence; and reaffirming the City of Cleveland as a community where transgender individuals are welcome, and our commitment to transgender equality and codified anti-discrimination protections and laws for our LGBTQ+ community.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Equality Ohio, LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, TransOhio, and all members of the Ohio General Assembly whose districts include the City of Cleveland.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

jho 11/17/2025

For: Councilmembers Spencer, Maurer

Council Members Spencer, Maurer Welch and Gray

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READ FIRST TIME
and referred to

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on NOVEMBER 17, 2025

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR