



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Khandikile Mvunga Sokoni, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #TransgenderRights

AGENDA ITEM #16D
March 28, 2023
Introduction

SUBJECT

Resolution in support of Montgomery County's Transgender Community

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Sayles, Mink, and Stewart and Council President Glass

Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Katz and Jawando, Council Vice-President Friedson, and Councilmembers Fani-Gozalet, Luedtke, Balcombe, and Albornoz

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Selena Mendy Singleton, Racial Equity Manager, Office of the Montgomery County Council

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Resolution aims to support Montgomery County's transgender community, and to condemn all anti transgender acts.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

N/A

This report contains:

Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: March 28, 2023
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Sayles, Mink, and Stewart, and Council President Glass
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Katz and Jawando, Council Vice President Friedson, and
Councilmembers Fani-Gozalez, Luedtke, Balcombe, and Albornoz

SUBJECT: Resolution in support of Montgomery County’s Transgender Community

Background

1. Montgomery County Council is committed to supporting civil rights and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + (LGBTQIA+) community, passing a 2016 resolution condemning anti-transgender laws, the 2020 LGBTQ Bill of Rights, and the 2022 law requiring gender-inclusive restrooms.
2. The 2015 US Trans Survey estimated that as many as 40% of transgender individuals had attempted suicide at least once, about nine times the national average.
3. Since 2013, there have been at least 318 transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals killed in violent attacks nationwide. In the last ten years, at least 17 individuals in Maryland were killed, including Keyonna Blakeney (Rockville, 2016) and Zella Ziona (Gaithersburg, 2015).
4. Recently, hate groups nationwide have targeted transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people as well as events and organizations centering or supporting those communities. In Montgomery County, hate groups have attempted to disrupt Drag Story Hour at Brookside Gardens, Loyalty Bookstores, and more. Bells Mill Elementary School shifted an in-person PTA meeting to virtual after receiving threats following a social media post of a teacher reading a book about a transgender child.
5. Anti-transgender resolutions have been enacted in several states, including Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alabama, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, Utah, Iowa, and South Dakota.
6. Anti-trans laws impact entire communities, particularly communities of color, by contributing to hatred and unsafe environments. Research shows that laws that target transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming individuals increase depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation within the community.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following resolution:

1. Montgomery County condemns all anti-transgender acts, urges all residents to exercise compassion and understanding, and calls for neighboring jurisdictions to condemn hate and violence against the LGBTQIA+ community.
2. Montgomery County affirms its commitment to work proactively to make our county one that is fully inclusive of the transgender, nonbinary, gender non-conforming, and wider LGBTQIA+ community.
3. Montgomery County affirms that people of all gender identities and expressions are welcome.
4. Montgomery County supports LGBTQIA+-friendly events, such as Drag Story Hour and Pride Month, and recognizes them as important and joyful ways to celebrate the diversity of our community.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp., Clerk of the Council