

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Special Alert on bill 2017-15!

This is an update on the Jacksonville City Council bill 2017-0015 that would (try for the third time to) add “sexual orientation and gender identity and expression” as a **new protected class** in our city’s Human Rights Ordinance (HRO). **We are encouraging every Jacksonville citizen opposed to this bill to contact their city council members as soon as possible and urge them to vote no on bill 2017-15. Also, please urge everyone you know to do the same. (Contact info is below.)** The bill is heading to the council committees to be debated on and voted up or down in each committee. None of the three committees meetings will have public comment; however, those who are able to come and show opposition are encouraged to do so.

new info *****Also, on Feb. 2nd at 2 p.m. in the Lynnwood Roberts Room at City Hall (117 West Duval St.), Councilman Bill Gulliford, one of the leading opponents of the bill will be holding a special public meeting with fellow interested council members to discuss the *problems with 2017-15* (see some of the main problems under more detail section.) Please come out to this meeting or any of the committee meetings shown below if you are able.**

The three committees, their meeting times, and dates are:

Mon. Feb. 6th 8:30 am Neighborhoods, Community Investments & Services Committee

Tues. Feb. 7th 12:30 pm Rules Committee

Wed. Feb. 8th 8:30 am Finance Committee

The Rules Committee is heavily slanted in favor of the bill, but Neighborhoods and Finance could go either way. The final vote before the whole council, if the bill passes out of all three committees, will be on Tues. Feb. 14th 5:00 pm.

***There will also not be any public comment at the final vote.

ÿ See **More Details** below for talking points and the dangers of this bill.

★ WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please contact our city council and mayor and encourage them to **oppose** adding sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to our city’s Human Rights Ordinance (**bill 2017-15**).

- EMAIL them, urging them to oppose this bill (emails available at <https://floridafamilyaction.org/2017/01/jaxhro2017/>) This is extreme
- CALL Mayor Curry and the council members (phone numbers are below) Calling and emailing the mayor and city council members are crucial to show them that the people of Jacksonville do not support this. **Please** make every effort to **contact** the mayor and city council today
- COME TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (See dates and times above.) It is crucial for the people of Jacksonville to have a strong showing at City Hall in opposition to this dangerous bill at these committee meetings.

Please urge everyone you know through social media, email, church, phone, or other ways to call and email their council members and mayor to oppose 2017-15! This is absolutely crucial in order to defeat this bill!

☒ Mayor Lenny Curry _____ mayorlennycurry@coj.net _____ [904-630-1776](tel:904-630-1776)

☒ DISTRICT:	EMAIL	PHONE #
1. ☒ Joyce Morgan (D)	joycemorgan@coj.net	904-630-1389
2. Al Ferraro (R) (opposes bill)	ferraro@coj.net	904-630-1392
3. Aaron Bowman (R) (introduced bill)	abowman@coj.net	904-630-1386
4. ☒ Scott Wilson (R)	swilson@coj.net	904-630-1394
5. ☒ Lori Boyer (R)	lboyer@coj.net	904-630-1382
6. Matt Schellenberg (R) (opposes bill)	matts@coj.net	904-630-1388
7. ☒ Reggie Gaffney (D)	rgaffney@coj.net	904-630-1384
8. ☒ Katrina Brown (D)	kbrown@coj.net	904-630-1385
9. ☒ Garrett Dennis (D)	garrettd@coj.net	904-630-1395
10. ☒ Reginald Brown (D)	rbrown@coj.net	904-630-1684
11. ☒ Danny Becton (R)	dbecton@coj.net	904-630-1383
12. Doyle Carter (R) (opposes bill)	doylec@coj.net	904-630-1380
13. Bill Gulliford (R) (opposes bill)	gulliford@coj.net	904-630-1397
14. Jim Love (R) (introduced bill)	jimlove@coj.net	904-630-1390

☒ GROUP AT LARGE:	EMAIL	PHONE #
1. ☒ Anna Lopez Brosche (R)	abrosche@coj.net	904-630-1393
2. John Crescimbeni (D)	jrc@coj.net	904-630-1381
3. Tommy Hazouri (D) (introduced bill)	thazouri@coj.net	904-630-1396
4. ☒ Greg Anderson (R)	ganderson@coj.net	904-630-1398
5. Samuel Newby (R) (opposes bill)	snewby@coj.net	904-630-1387

☒ these are the council members are on the fence and must be contacted

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★ _MORE DETAILS

ÿ The terms “sexual orientation and gender identity and expression” create a group that is scientifically and objectively impossible to define. These groups are vaguely defined in the bill and leave open major room for lawsuits against individuals and (both small and large) businesses.

ÿ This bill would allow a man to go into women’s locker rooms, shower rooms, dorm rooms, bathrooms, etc. if he identifies as a woman (and vice versa).

ÿ Christians and those with a religious or conscientious objection to decorating a cake for a gay wedding ceremony, making a homosexual rally t-shirt, photographing a same-sex wedding, and the

like, would be forced to comply, face fines, and/or possibly have to “choose between your religious beliefs and your business” (as a supporter of the bill said at the city council meeting on January 10th of this year).

ÿ The City Council of Jacksonville is currently considering bill 2017-0015 that would change our Jacksonville Human Rights Ordinance. This law would make “sexual orientation and gender identity and expression” **new protected classes**.

ÿ Similar laws in other cities and states have been used to punish citizens for simply living out their religious views and using free speech within their own workplaces. Under these laws, even consensual conversations among coworkers about issues of sexuality, marriage, and the like could provide the basis for “prosecution” if a third party overhears the conversation and sues, claiming the speech discriminated against him/her (created a hostile work environment). Sexual orientation and gender identity behavior (expression) in the workplace, which under normal circumstances could be counted as creating a “improper” work environment for coworkers, would be not only protected, but could also lead to discipline or termination for those who say something against it. Through the public accommodations section of this bill, fully biological men, who give evidence their “gender identity is sincerely held” (by either cross-dressing or subjectively claiming they identify as women) would be able to have complete access to women’s bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms. Businesses and/or individuals would be subject to potentially expensive prosecution if they deny or call out a man using a private, sex-specific facility (and vice versa). One business in Minnesota, after receiving complaints from female employees, prohibited a man (claiming to be a woman) from entering the woman’s restroom, and in response the individual sued.

ÿ This law claims to protect religious freedom, but it only exempts “religious organizations” and “schools of religious instruction and non-profit institutions or organizations affiliated” with them. (It still applies to any Christian/charity organization that is “unaffiliated” with an institutional “church”. In other words, homeless shelters would be required to allow a homeless man identifying as a woman in the women’s dorms; counseling groups would be prohibited from giving counsel contrary to the LGBT lifestyles; and an abuse rehabilitation center like the Hubbard House would be required to house a man identifying as a woman in the same room and facilities with abused women seeking shelter at the center.

ÿ It also does not protect an individual’s religious freedom to operate his business in a manner consistent with his religious beliefs. Under this law, individual Christians, Jews, Muslims, and others would lose religious liberty to speak on and practice their religious convictions in the public and private business spheres in regards to their personal religious beliefs on marriage, family, sexuality, and gender. Where religious or moral convictions conflict with the LGBT desires/actions, LGBT “rights” will trump the freedoms of religion, speech, association, property, common sense privacy concerns, and other Human Rights Ordinance protected classes (race, national origin, [natural] sex, and age).

ÿ Even business owners who do not have religious objections to the LGBT lifestyles are subject to prosecution regarding this ordinance. A business owner who declines to hire an applicant for personal business reasons, to avoid unnecessarily offending other customers, or even to avoid taking a stand either way on the LGBT issue, could find a lawsuit because of this legislation’s “unequal protections.” Employers as well as business and property owners should always have the right to legally ask individuals to stop overt, public displays of affection where they deem “improper,” no matter what the sexual orientation of the individual in question. The current freedoms of property owners already applies to LGBTQ owners; however, this bill would deny all property owners this important right. In addition, if an LGBT customer or co-worker claims to be offended by another individual’s personal conversations, the offended person could file another lawsuit against the business! A man on his off time recently shared a movie link on the subject of homosexuality with a coworker through social media. The coworker complained to management, who then fired the man who had shared the movie information on his own personal time!

ÿ Visit <https://floridafamilyaction.org/2017/01/jaxhro2017/> to find updated information on this issue and to send forum emails to council members.

ÿ The full text of the bill is available at www.coj.net [search for bill 2017-0015] as well as contact info for the council members.

ÿ Please watch the free Living Waters production that touches on this topic in a very sensitive but truthful way www.audacitymovie.com.

ÿ To learn more about the dangers of laws “protecting” sexual orientation and gender identity, please read the powerful Heritage Foundation paper by Dr. Ryan Anderson, Ph.D. at www.Report.heritage.org/bg3082

ÿ To learn about the latest scientific research demonstrating that the scientific evidence **does not** support the claims that “homosexuals are born that way” or “one can be born a man trapped in a women’s body”, visit www.TheNewAtlantis.com and check out the study “Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences” by Dr. Lawrence Mayer, Ph.D. and Dr. Paul McHugh, M.D.

Sincerely,
Aaron DiPietro
Nathan DiPietro

*Please email us if you wish to not receive any further emails; put discontinue in the subject line.