

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Adiel McKnight, Executive Assistant

DATE: February 6, 2023

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Proclaiming Unwavering Commitment to the Inalienable Human Rights and Dignity of All Individuals and Equality Under the Law and Constitution

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Human Rights Proclamation re: Proclaiming Unwavering Commitment to the Inalienable Human Rights and Dignity of All Individuals and Equality Under the Law and Constitution and continue to strive to make Jefferson County a welcoming place that is safe and healthy for all, free of discrimination and hatred, and invite all residents to join in safeguarding these values and promote a climate of tolerance, inclusion and civic engagement in the community.

The Board may invite interested Elected Officials to provide comments regarding the proposed Human Rights proclamation, and to join in signing the Proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and finalize the Human Rights Proclamation. Action may be taken to approve the proclamation.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

2/1/23
Date



HUMAN RIGHTS PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, as elected officials of Jefferson County, we are committed to protecting the inalienable human rights, dignity and equality of all individuals, regardless of age, race, national origin, immigration and citizenship status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, creed, or mental or physical disability; and

WHEREAS, we have a sworn oath of office to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and uphold and protect the constitutional rights of all individuals; and

WHEREAS, as a people, this nation has striven mightily to live up to and perfect its expression of those values, through a civil war and a Second World War, and through citizen movements such as the Suffrage movement of the 1800s and early 1900s, the Civil Rights movement of the mid 1900s, the Gay Rights and LGBTQ movement of the 1970s to the present, and many other movements for equality and tolerance, which, over time, have resulted in court cases and legislation in Washington DC and Washington State that enshrine and protect the values of human rights, dignity and equality; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County serves all residents and we strive to make services accessible to all, and county agencies and law enforcement do not withhold services based on ancestry, race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration or citizenship status, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, physical or mental disability, or religion; and

WHEREAS, the public relies on Jefferson County for protection of their civil and human rights and in turn, Jefferson County relies on public trust as critical to maintaining safe communities, we encourage residents to report instances of discrimination, harassment, violence, bullying and expression of hate based on difference; and

WHEREAS, history has tragically taught us that intolerance and discrimination are still potent threats to a just society, and that when people stand by and allow such acts to occur without speaking up or taking action, it can enable hatred, discrimination and intolerance to deepen and spread; and

WHEREAS, recent events and political uncertainty have shown the need for continued vigilance to ensure that human and civil rights, and the rule of law and due process are upheld;

NOW, THEREFORE, the elected officials of Jefferson County who have signed below hereby proclaim our unwavering commitment to the inalienable human rights and dignity of all individuals and equality under the law and constitution, and that we will continue to strive to make Jefferson County a welcoming place that is safe and healthy for all, free of discrimination and hatred, and we invite all residents to join us in safeguarding these values and promoting a climate of tolerance, inclusion and civic engagement in our community.

PROCLAIMED this 6th day of February, 2023

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

SEAL:

Greg Brotherton, Chair

ATTEST:

Kate Dean, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC, Clerk of the Board

Heidi Eisenhour, Member

CO-SIGNING JEFFERSON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jeff Chapman
Jefferson County Assessor

James Kennedy
Jefferson County Prosecutor

Brenda Huntingford
Jefferson County Auditor

Joe Nole
Jefferson County Sheriff

Amanda Hamilton
Jefferson County Clerk

Stacie Prada
Jefferson County Treasure