



City of Ellensburg

PROCLAMATION

Transgender Day of Visibility

Whereas, Transgender individuals have been a part of the fabric of societies since the beginning of humankind; and

Whereas, early America also had examples of cross-gender identified individuals such as colonial governor of New York, Lord Cornbury, arriving from New England in full woman's dress and so appearing during their full time in office, to a century later as commissioned Army surgeon Mary Walker was the only woman expressly granted Congressional permission to wear man's clothing, and Jo Monohan, a late 1800s transman who migrated to Washington State "to be a cowboy;" and

Whereas, Christine Jorgenson in the 1950s, Renee Richards and Sylvia Rivera in the 1970s, Caroline Cosey in the 1980s, Chaz Bono and Spokane's Billy Tipton in the 1990s, and Jazz Jennings, Laverne Cox, Elliott Page and more, continue to bring awareness of transgender identities; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama in his 2015 State of the Union address stated in short, "That's why we defend... people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender... not because is the right thing to do, but because it makes us safer;" and

Whereas, President Joe Biden proclaimed, "Like never before, Transgender people are enlisting — once again — to serve proudly and openly in our military; getting elected and making policy at every level of government; and running businesses, curing diseases, and serving our communities in countless other ways;" and

Whereas, March 31st marks International Transgender Day of Visibility, created in 2009 acknowledging and celebrating living members of the transgender community, Transgender Day of Visibility is a day to recognize and center the voices and contributions of our gender diverse community in our city; and

Whereas, all residents can join in celebrating the contributions of transgender individuals to our community and to work towards creating a more inclusive and accepting society for everyone.

Now, Therefore, the City Council of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim March 31, 2024 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Ellensburg, honors the courage and contributions of transgender Americans to our city, state, and nation, and commits our efforts to make Ellensburg a city where everyone belongs and feels welcome.

Signed this 18th day of March 2024.

Attest:
Beth Slader
City Clerk

Rich Elliott, Mayor