

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 114

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
114	Anonymous	Support	Our city should be taking care of our at-risk members, especially as many other parts of the nation are attacking trans rights. The LGBTQIA2S+ Program does great work to that ideal and it is well worth the funding.	No	02/02/24 10:59 AM
114	Sean Forsythe	Support	Our city prides itself on inclusivity and safety for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, which has lead to us being lauded the world over. We should absolutely support the recommendations of Council Item 114, and continue funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity. Around the country, transgender individuals and queer youth are under attack, and at risk, so supporting the Office of Equity is vital in supporting many of those in the city who need it most. This is a matter that lives within the soul of our fair city, and not supporting this plan would be a disservice to all of Portland.	No	02/02/24 10:59 AM
114	Augustus Rachels	Support	I believe the recommendations of this plan are vital to the city of Portland and strongly support them. It is a scary, dangerous time to be a trans person and this funding is a necessary part of the city's responsibility to keep them safe, as well as the most vulnerable groups of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, such as queer youth and elders. This means accepting this plan and providing funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity. Thank you.	No	02/02/24 5:31 PM

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
114	Anonymous	Support	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>Today, you will decide on the future of our Portland LGBTQIA2S+ community. I ask that you choose to continue to role model our City's stated values of equity, diversity, inclusion, representation, and justice, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continuing funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity. 2) Not allowing funding to expire for the LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst position. 3) Supporting the recommendations outlined in the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan. <p>Firstly, I ask that you continue to fund limited time positions within the Office of Equity. These employees represent our community at a critical, volatile time for the LGBTQIA2S+ community. The City and the Office of Equity need analysts who will incisively guide our City and our constituents towards a better future.</p> <p>Secondly, and similarly, I urge you to not let funding expire for the limited-term LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst role. In a time when the LGBTQIA2S+ community is under attack, this analyst position showcases our City Council's clear commitment to equity, and is essential to completing the goals laid out in the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>This position serves our City's goals and our LGBTQIA2S+ constituents, and it makes no sense to eliminate this position, in today's volatile climate. Facing growing threats and attacks, our LGBTQIA2S+ constituents need the policy and planning expertise this position provides. This role enables our City to rebuke growing threats via strong, inclusive policy guidance. I urge you not to let this position slip through our fingers, due to the technicality of a funding expiration date.</p> <p>Frankly, given the rising climate of hate-based policies across our nation, I ask you to consider converting the limited-term LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst role into a permanent position. Having discussed this with many within our community, I have found broad consensus that our City needs more--not less--roles like this within our City Government workforce.</p> <p>Thirdly, I ask that you support the recommendations laid out within the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan. The Portland Metro Area has the second-highest percentage of LGBTQIA2S+ constituents among US Metro Areas (The Williams Institute, UCLA, 2021). Our City needs the Strategic Plan's clear, collaborative goals, to adequately represent this large group of constituents, particularly in today's dangerous climate.</p> <p>Our City needs to fund LGBTQIA2S+ equity, while transgender people are under attack across this nation. Our City needs to affirm its support for our queer youth, with 9.54% of US youth identifying as LGBTQ+ (The Williams Institute, UCLA, 2020). Our City needs to demonstrate support for LGBTQIA2S+ housing, and for LGBTQIA2S+ Elders and those living with HIV. Our City needs the Strategic Plan's clear-cut guidelines to build a better future for our constituents and our City.</p> <p>In conclusion, as a local homeowner and taxpayer, I am proud to live in our beautiful City. Multiple generations of my family, and many close friends have all chosen to move to Portland--in large part due to its explicit policy support for our local LGBTQIA2S+ constituents. We are happy to give back to our community, because we are supported by our local leadership.</p> <p>As City Council Members, and as thought leaders for our City, I urge you to support a bright, inclusive future for our City. I ask that you continue funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity, particularly by not allowing funding to expire for the LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst position. And, I ask you to support the recommendations within the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan.</p>	Yes	02/02/24 7:43 PM

Council Written Testimony

Row 11

Agenda Item 114

Position Support

Comments Dear City Council Members,

Today, you will decide on the future of our Portland LGBTQIA2S+ community.

I ask that you choose to continue to role model our City's stated values of equity, diversity, inclusion, representation, and justice, by:

- 1) Continuing funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity.
- 2) Not allowing funding to expire for the LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst position.
- 3) Supporting the recommendations outlined in the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan.

Firstly, I ask that you continue to fund limited time positions within the Office of Equity. These employees represent our community at a critical, volatile time for the LGBTQIA2S+ community. The City and the Office of Equity need analysts who will incisively guide our City and our constituents towards a better future.

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This position serves our City's goals and our LGBTQIA2S+ constituents, and it makes no sense to eliminate this position, in today's volatile climate. Facing growing threats and attacks, our LGBTQIA2S+ constituents need the policy and planning expertise this position provides. This role enables our City to rebuke growing threats via strong, inclusive policy guidance. I urge you not to let this position slip through our fingers, due to the technicality of a funding expiration date.

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permanent position. Having discussed this with many within our community, I have found broad consensus that our City needs more--not less--roles like this within our City Government workforce.

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Our City needs to fund LGBTQIA2S+ equity, while transgender people are under attack across this nation. Our City needs to affirm its support for our queer youth, with 9.54% of US youth identifying as LGBTQ+ (The Williams Institute, UCLA, 2020). Our City needs to demonstrate support for LGBTQIA2S+ housing, and for LGBTQIA2S+ Elders and those living with HIV. Our City needs the Strategic Plan's clear-cut guidelines to build a better future for our constituents and our City.

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As City Council Members, and as thought leaders for our City, I urge you to support a bright, inclusive future for our City. I ask that you continue funding for limited time positions within the Office of Equity, particularly by not allowing funding to expire for the LGBTQIA2S+ Policy Analyst position. And, I ask you to support the recommendations within the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name or Organization	Anonymous
Email	Not provided
Submitted	02/02/24 7:43 PM
Attachment	Yes

Final Meeting Date	02/07/24
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February 7, 2024

Council Agenda Item 114:

Accept the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan

Position: Support

Dear City Council Members,

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
114	Maggie Williams	Support	For the City of Portland to live up to its ideals, especially in the current age with veiled and not-so-veiled attacks on trans people across the country, now is the time to become a leader on LGBTQIA2S+ issues, not fall behind. Consider and accept the plan that has been thoroughly researched, analyzed and recommended by staff with personal and professional expertise. Furthermore, ensure that the plan is adopted with fidelity, especially through the forthcoming transition in government, by retaining the staff who have formed these recommendations. Don't let such important issues fall by the wayside.	No	02/05/24 11:06 PM
114	Lorilee Morsette, Community Member and Office of Equity - Bureau Advisory Committee member	Support	Dear Members of the City Council, I support the Office of Equity's LGBTQIA2S+ Program and, in good faith, am submitting a written testimonial for the renewal of funding for the one-time positions within the Office of Equity. It is my belief that sustaining these positions is crucial to the continuous success of the program in advancing LGBTQIA2S+ policy Citywide. Sincerely, Lorilee J. Morsette, MS, THRP	Yes	02/06/24 10:51 PM
114	Cayla McGrail	Support	I fully support the LGBTQIA2S+ Program and Strategic Plan. It's important to continue funding and expanding this program, especially to build capacity to uplift queer Portlanders.	No	02/07/24 10:16 AM
114	Samantha Silverman, Multnomah County	Support	<p>My name is Sam Silverman, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I work for Multnomah County's Office of Diversity and Equity as the Senior Equity Policy Analyst with a focus on LGBTQIA2S+ inclusion. I have been collaborating with Lex Jakusovsky over the last year to strategize on how the City and the County can unify our efforts to serve Portland's queer and trans community within our shared jurisdiction. I strongly urge the Council to approve of this strategic plan, as it will guide our efforts for the next ten years to improve the living circumstances of our LGBTQ+ community in the metro region.</p> <p>With the rise of anti-trans legislation and the aggressive targeting of LGBTQ+ youth across the nation, people are fleeing their home states in large numbers to find refuge in Portland. It is critical for us to set a standard for the rest of the country in our ability to create safe and welcoming neighborhoods for the LGBTQ+ community to thrive, which requires the expansion of policies and services to address the disparate health outcomes of this marginalized population. The City's Office of Equity and Human Rights has not been adequately staffed and funded to be able to support this growing community despite having one of the largest LGBTQ+ populations in the United States. Queer and trans Portlanders face higher rates of homelessness, behavioral health needs, and poverty, which is magnified at the intersection of race/ethnicity and the struggles of queer and trans Portlanders of color. Both the County and the City need to invest additional attention and resources into addressing these barriers to healthy living for the LGBTQ+ community in the Portland area.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing how Multnomah County and the City of Portland can work together to accomplish the goals set out in the 2024 LGBTQIA2S+ Program Report and Strategic Plan. Please vote to approve and fully fund the LGBTQIA2S+ Program to be effective and impactful at a time when the City's leadership is direly needed. Thank you!</p>	No	02/07/24 10:30 AM

Lorilee Morsette
5990 SW Menlo Drive
Beaverton, OR 97005
lorimorsette@yahoo.com
(360) 979-8691

February 6, 2024

Portland City Council
City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing in support of the Office of Equity's LGBTQIA2S+ Program and their proposal for the renewal of funding for one-time positions within the Office of Equity. I believe it is crucial to maintain funding for these positions so that the LGBTQIA2S+ program can continue to effectively advance LGBTQIA2S+ policy Citywide.

The upcoming presentation of the City's first-ever LGBTQIA2S+ Strategic Plan is a significant step forward in promoting equity and inclusion within our city. It is imperative that the Office of Equity receives the necessary support to ensure the successful implementation of this plan and the ongoing fulfillment of the city's equity mandates.

I strongly urge the City Council to consider the recommendations put forth by the Office of Equity staff and to renew funding for these critical positions. Failure to do so may have negative repercussions on the ability of the program and the office to meet the needs of our LGBTQIA2S+ community and fulfill their important role in advancing equity within the city.

Thank you for considering my input on this matter. I hope the Council will give full support to the renewal of funding for these positions to ensure the continued success and impact of the LGBTQIA2S+ program within our community.

Sincerely,



Lorilee Morsette