

**ALL-USER RESTROOMS**

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ Andrea Zeleis	1600 N. Colfax 97217	andrea@basicrights.org
✓ Bob Joondolph	410 SW Broadway Ste 200 97205	bob@droregon.org



**TO: Mayor Hales and Members of the City Council**  
**FR: Andrea Zekis, Policy Director, Basic Rights Oregon**  
**DA: December 17, 2015**  
**RE: Testimony in Support of Resolution 1339 on Gender Neutral Restrooms**

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Mayor Hales and Members of the City Council:

My name is Andrea Zekis and I am the Policy Director for Basic Rights Oregon. Basic Rights Oregon is the statewide advocacy organization for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied communities. We represent tens of thousands of Oregonians from every corner of this state.

Basic Rights Oregon supports the resolution to inventory, re-sign and plan for possible updates to ensure access to gender-neutral bathrooms within City of Portland facilities. And we want to acknowledge Commissioner Fish and his staff for their leadership on this resolution.

Creating safe, accessible and affirming bathrooms for all people is an important policy goal that will improve the lives of Portlanders. This resolution is particularly important for Oregon's transgender communities. Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are far more likely to experience violence and harassment.

Regrettably, a good bit of this harassment and violence occurs when transgender people visit public restrooms creating anxiety for me personally and for many others in our community. As a result of anxiety associated with activities of daily living—things other people take for granted—more than 40 percent of transgender Oregonians will attempt suicide because of this discrimination and lack of acceptance. Many people are not familiar with the transgender community and that can create fear and un-due discrimination.

Transgender people visit a public restroom for the same reasons as everyone else—to use it. And when we do, we want privacy, dignity and respect just like everyone else. We can enhance safety and acceptance by creating spaces where all of us, regardless of identity, our abilities, the assistance we need, or our age are supported and accepted.

Basic Rights Oregon strongly encourages the council to pass this resolution to create gender-neutral bathrooms.

Thank you.

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** Emily Newberry <emilypnewberry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2015 10:07 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony; Dunphy, Jamie  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Dec 17 resolution on gender neutral bathrooms  
**Attachments:** Gender Neutral.docx; ATT00001.htm

Please accept my attached letter in support of the resolution being considered on December 17 in support of gender neutral bathrooms in City Hall.

Sincerely,

Emily Pittman Newberry

December 15, 2015

Mayor Hales and Members of City Council  
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 240  
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Emily Pittman Newberry, and I am a transgender woman and resident of Portland, Oregon. I am also a member of the Advisory Council of SAGE Metro Portland. I write in support of the resolution you are considering on December 17, 2015 regarding gender neutral bathroom facilities at City Hall.

I was born transgender in 1944, a time when it was very dangerous to come out. I lived in hiding until I was 61 years old. All my life I was very uncomfortable using the men's bathrooms, something I had no choice about. Today as an out transgender woman I can use the women's room I where I knew I belonged. I would not wish that lifetime of discomfort on anyone.

There are transgender people who do not fit in the gender binary as I do, and being forced to choose between men's and women's bathrooms can be very stressful for them. Many have expressed to me the wish that there were more gender neutral bathrooms for them to use. At times they experience other people's uncomfortable looks or negative comments and even harassment. With gender neutral bathrooms available they and can use the facilities with the peace of mind we all expect.

Thank you for your support of this resolution.

Sincerely,  
Emily Pittman Newberry  
4311 SE 37<sup>th</sup> Ave, #19  
Portland, OR 97202  
(503) 729-6844

**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** JoAnn Herrigel <JoAnn@eldersinaction.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Cc:** Dunphy, Jamie; Suzanne Hansche (civicresearch@earthlink.net)  
**Subject:** Tesimony on Resolution 1339  
**Attachments:** Gender Neutral Bathrooms.pdf

Attached is testimony from the Elders in Action Commission on the Gender Neutral bathroom resolution to be considered at the December 17 (2 pm) Council meeting. We regret that we are unable to attend the meeting in person.

JoAnn

JoAnn Herrigel, Deputy Director  
1411 SW Morrison St. Ste. 290  
Portland, OR 97205  
[joann@eldersinaction.org](mailto:joann@eldersinaction.org)  
503-595-7530 direct  
503-235-5474 main office





December 14, 2015

Mayor Hales and Members of City Council  
1221 SW Fourth Ave., Room 240  
Portland OR 97204

Mayor and Council Members:

The Elders in Action Commission is a senior advocacy council that advises the City of Portland, and Multnomah County Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services on issues affecting older adults in Multnomah County. As such, we support affordable, high quality health care, housing, nutrition and transportation services for older adults and adults with disabilities. The Commission believes in a barrier-free society for full participation in civic life that provides opportunity for access to stable and appropriate support services and to human rights protections for everyone.

The commission would like to express our support for the resolution being considered on Thursday, December 17 regarding gender neutral, or "all user", bathrooms at City facilities. We believe that this effort will remove barriers to a safe and inclusive workplace for employees, to create spaces that are welcoming to all visitors, and result in the treatment of all people with respect and dignity. Gender-neutral restrooms serve older adult couples that include a person whose mobility issues necessitates the other's assistance. These facilities also eliminate harassment and other inconveniences that transgender and gender non-conforming people experience when using gender segregated bathrooms.

Thank you for your support for this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Hansche".

Suzanne Hansche  
Chair, Elders in Action Commission