

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, TO
SUPPORT THE BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND
PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC), LESBIAN,
GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER,
INTERSEX, AND ASEXUAL (LGBTQIA+)
MERCED COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, welcoming an inclusive environment for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or place of origin, is a core value of the City of Merced;

WHEREAS, violence against Merced Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) residents has always been present, manifested in the form of extreme disparities in houselessness, poverty, unemployment, health and mental health outcomes, lack of representation in leadership, lack of supportive spaces for young people in the LGBTQIA+ community;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the urgent need to strengthen institutional support to ensure the safety and protection of Merced's BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community and make institutional changes that would ensure the protection and safety of the BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community;

WHEREAS, the movement toward BIPOC LGBTQIA+ equality has seen great strides forward in recent years, including the United States Supreme Court holding that the freedom to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples and historic public visibility for transgender Americans;

WHEREAS, despite this progress, individuals across the country continue to face discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in many aspects of their lives;

WHEREAS, there has been a troubling recent trend of instances of government-sanctioned discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. The primary responsibility of city government is

protecting the rights and safety of our diverse residents, and BIPOC LGBTQIA+ people are our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family;

WHEREAS, visibility for the Merced BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community has increased, we still exist in a society where policies and laws are drafted and passed that go directly against rights and full participation in society; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to identify, understand and address the unique needs of the BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community in a culturally competent manner, and with participation and leadership from BIPOC LGBTQIA+ Merced residents. Business leaders agree that discrimination is bad for business, asserting that strong communities are those that welcome all people and their families, including BIPOC LGBTQIA+.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Merced commits to collaborating with local youth organizations, faith-based communities, community-based organizations agencies in order to increase equity and inclusion and improve health and wellness outcomes for the Merced BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community; commits to initiatives, content and programming that is inclusive to BIPOC LGBTQIA+, and is all ages and sober friendly for the Merced BIPOC LGBTQIA+ youth; and is against biased practices and removes systemic barriers that perpetuate disparities for the BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community in the City of Merced, through partnering with BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community agencies to assess existing training resources and provide sensitivity readers for city messaging.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the ____ day of _____ 202_, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members:

NOES: Council Members:

ABSENT: Council Members:

ABSTAIN: Council Members:

APPROVED:

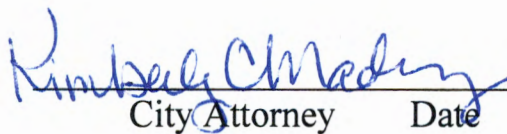
Mayor

ATTEST:
STEPHANIE R. DIETZ, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 10/8/24
City Attorney Date