

06 July, 2020

Great Falls City Commission
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403

Re: Statement of Support for Adoption of Non-discrimination Ordinance

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you today to express my support for the non-discrimination ordinance slated for your review this month. I strongly urge you to adopt this policy to protect the rights and well-being of the Queer community in Great Falls.

Any modern, progressive city that pursues equality and growth understands the importance of policies that make the community welcoming and safe for citizens, current and prospective. As Great Falls navigates a changing world and region, it must adapt and grow to attract new businesses and opportunities. Many business assess their siting of facilities based on factors such as tax policies, environmental quality, parks/recreation opportunities, and the protections afforded minority groups.

Queer individuals and families make these considerations as well when vetting the communities to which they are considering moving. I have no desire to live in a city where an individual or family can be legally evicted or denied housing due to being a member of the Queer population. Discrimination on the basis of gender identity and/or sexual orientation is archaic, damaging, hurtful, and based only on hate and queerphobia and it has no place in Great Falls nor any other self-respecting city.

As a town with a significant military population, Great Falls is obligated to protect those individuals and families from being evicted due to LGBTQ+ identity. There are thousands of persons in the military, proudly serving our country, who identify as Queer and they deserve the full support and protections afforded them in other cities.

Any argument against this ordinance has no fiscal, legal, or ethical basis and is purely queerphobic. LGBTQ+ individuals are exceptional members of their communities and deserve the same rights and respect as everyone else. Please vote to adopt this non-discrimination ordinance in Great Falls. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Justin Wright
3314 2nd Ave N
Great Falls, MT

Dear Mayor Kelly and Great Falls City Commissioners,

I write in support of the consideration of a Non Discrimination Ordinance for the City of Great Falls. This is a civil rights issue and should not be political. Housing is a basic human right, and there is no excuse for discrimination in housing for LGBT-identified people.

The United States Supreme Court has made discrimination in marriage illegal, and now discrimination in employment illegal. Let's add housing discrimination, as so many other municipalities have done.

It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Jessica Crist

From: katie.adams1717 <katie.adams1717@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 10:26 AM

To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>

Subject: NDO

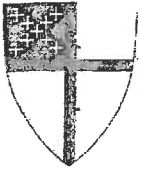
To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Montana all my life and proclaim to be a proud Montanan. I support the NDO act because we are all Americans and children of God. It is time that all Americans get equal treatment. Passing the NDO in our precious beautiful town is just one step closer to equality. Please consider the lives of those we deemed high risk or second citizens just because they are different. We are all humans...we are all Americans, and most importantly proud Montanans.

Sincerely

A concerned Great Falls Citizen.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone



Rev. Marcia Lauzon
325 Hylande Drive
Great Falls, Montana 59405-4139

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RECEIVED

June 30, 2020

City of Great Falls
The Honorable Bob Kelly, Mayor
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, Montana 59403-5021

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CITY CLERK

Dear Mayor Kelley:

I write to ask you to support the passage of a Non Discrimination Ordinance in Great Falls. It is a shame that our beautiful city is behind others in our state in taking this measure for justice.

This is a question of equal justice under the law. It is unfair to place an additional burden on LGBTQ people. There is ample evidence that they have been turned away from housing, from medical care, from employment and from social services simply because their gender or sexuality is not that of the majority. This is wrong because it is unjust.

Yes, it's a shame that we need such an ordinance. It's a shame that these injustices happen. But since they do happen, it is up to you, who work on behalf of all our citizens, to protect the ones who historically have been treated unfairly.

Thank you for your service to our community. I deeply appreciate the time and energy you devote to making Great Falls a wonderful place to live. I eagerly await the news that in support of that mission, you have taken the step of voting for this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Marcia Lauzon

Deacon, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation