



May 26, 2020

The Honorable Lenny Curry
Mayor, City of Jacksonville
City Hall at St. James, Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32202

The Honorable Scott Wilson
President, Jacksonville City Council
City Hall at St. James, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mayor Curry and Council President Wilson:

As you know, the Jacksonville Civic Council has consistently supported a Human Rights Ordinance to prohibit discrimination against the LGBT community. We are writing today to assure you that our position remains unchanged in the wake of the 1st District Court of Appeals' recent decision on process technicalities in the recent passage of an HRO, and to request your support for the legislative remedy currently before the Jacksonville City Council.

In the past, the absence of a Human Rights Ordinance was a detriment to the economic and cultural development of our community, as Jacksonville was one of the few remaining major cities in Florida without such an ordinance. The passage of an HRO in 2017 strengthened our economy, made Jacksonville more attractive to people and businesses, and advanced a culture of fairness and respect for all. We urge you to preserve those advantages on behalf of all residents of Jacksonville by supporting Ordinance 2020-244.

The bill before you does not create a tort, and was developed with extensive input from a broad spectrum of local business, civic and faith leaders. It protects the LGBT community from discrimination while preserving individual rights to religious freedom and not imposing a burden on small business. Its passage is a top priority for the Jacksonville Civic Council and the business community.

Once again, we respectfully ask you to join the majority of Florida and U.S. cities in affirmatively protecting Jacksonville's citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. When everyone in our community has an equal right to live and work without fear of discrimination, we all prosper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Delaney".

John Delaney
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanne M. Miller".

Jeanne M. Miller
CEO & President



Cc:

The Honorable Joyce Morgan
The Honorable Al Ferraro
The Honorable Aaron L. Bowman
The Honorable LeAnna M.G. Cumber
The Honorable Michael Boylan
The Honorable Reggie Gaffney
The Honorable Ju'Coby Pittman
The Honorable Garrett L. Dennis
The Honorable Brenda A. Priestly Jackson
The Honorable Danny Becton
The Honorable Randy White
The Honorable Rory Diamond
The Honorable Randy DeFoor
The Honorable Terrance E. Freeman
The Honorable Ronald B. Salem
The Honorable Tommy Hazouri
The Honorable Matt Carlucci
The Honorable Samuel Newby