

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
AND HILDA L. SOLIS

November 6, 2024

Declaring November 13-19, 2024, as Transgender Awareness Week and November 20, 2024, as Transgender Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles County

Each year between November 13-19, people and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise visibility about transgender people and issues members of the community face. Transgender people and their allies take action to bring attention to the community by educating the public about who transgender people are, sharing stories and experiences, and advancing advocacy around issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community.

According to a 2021 Gallup poll, 68% of Americans believe they have never personally met anyone who is transgender. That means most of the public’s education and awareness about transgender people has been informed by more than a century’s worth of media which has overwhelmingly misrepresented and mischaracterized who transgender people are – significantly influencing public perceptions, policy, and attitudes

MOTION

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about the transgender community.

In the same Gallup poll where nearly 70% of all Americans say they don't personally know a transgender person, responses show that 50% of Americans under the age of 30 report knowing someone transgender. Younger people are much more likely to have friends and family members who are transgender. This is consistent with multiple survey findings that more than 20% of Gen Z say they are part of the LGBTQ+ community. Younger people are much more likely to be LGBTQ+ and much more likely to have personal relationships with transgender people.

As the visibility of Transgender, Gender-nonconforming, and Intersex (TGI) people has become more authentic, and as more people have been able to share that they are transgender, with younger people more likely to have transgender friends and family members, a coordinating anti-transgender backlash has been launched in an attempt to stop this growing acceptance. In order to counteract the disinformation campaign targeting transgender people, especially transgender and gender-expansive youth, it is important to have resources with accurate, helpful information to correct the truths and disinformation. It is equally as important for those in power to acknowledge, and affirm, the rights of the transgender and gender-expansive community in Los Angeles County and beyond.

Following Transgender Awareness Week is Transgender Day of Remembrance, which was founded by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began the world-wide observance that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Last year alone, at least

25 transgender and gender non-conforming people's lives have been tragically and inhumanely taken through violent means, including through guns and interpersonal violence. In Los Angeles, 24-year-old Meraxes Medina, a Latina transgender woman and makeup artist, was shot and killed on March 19, 2024. Surveillance footage from a nearby sports bar reportedly showed a person getting out of a light-colored sedan to dump Meraxes' body on the street before fleeing the scene. In nearly half of the killings, victims were misgendered or deadnamed by authorities or the press.

For these reasons, Los Angeles County has an obligation to affirm, support, and uplift its vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community, specifically those who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming. Los Angeles County will continue its advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ+ and TGI people, and will stand firmly against any harassment, discrimination, or violence targeting those members of the LGBTQ+ and TGI community. With this motion, Los Angeles County will recognize the transgender and gender non-conforming community, and will proudly stand with the TGI community on a somber day, the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and every day of the year.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim November 13-19, 2024, as "Transgender Awareness Week" in Los Angeles County;
2. Proclaim November 20, 2024, as "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in Los Angeles County;
 - a. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and County Communications to promote the City of West Hollywood's Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil across social media platforms and to County

Departments.

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