



CONSENT CALENDAR
November 7, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author) and Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani and Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Co-Sponsors)

Subject: Transgender Awareness Month and Day of Remembrance Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution declaring November as Transgender Awareness Month and November 20 as Transgender Day of Remembrance in the City of Berkeley

BACKGROUND

Between 1995 and 1998, Chanelle Pickett, Monique Thomas, and Rita Hester, three Black transgender women, were murdered in acts of anti-transgender violence. In 1999, the first Transgender Day of Remembrance was held to honor their lives. Additionally, the week leading up to this occasion is observed as Transgender Awareness Week to honor, celebrate, and uplift the transgender community while addressing the numerous issues they face. The City of Berkeley stands with our transgender community members and is proud to raise the Transgender Pride Flag throughout the month of November.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

N/A

FISCAL IMPACTS

Costs associated with staff time necessary to organize the flag raising ceremony.

CONTACT

Councilmember Terry Taplin, District 2, (510) 981-7120, TTaplin@cityofberkeley.info

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,### N.S.

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS TRANSGENDER AWARENESS
MONTH AND NOVEMBER 20 AS TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN
THE CITY OF BERKELEY**

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20, is an annual observation that began in 1999 with a vigil honoring the memories of Chanelle Pickett, Monique Thomas, and Rita Hester, three Black transgender women murdered in years prior, and honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, Transgender Awareness Week, observed from November 13 to 19, is an annual occasion to honor, celebrate, and uplift the transgender community while addressing the numerous issues they face, including, but limited to, barriers in receiving medical treatment, discriminatory housing and employment practices, and a lack of adequate and appropriate representation across various facets of society; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, the Human Rights Campaign has tracked incidents of fatal transgender violence, the same year that the Federal Bureau of Investigation began reporting on hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias, and in 2023 so far, at least 19 transgender and gender non-conforming lives have been tragically and inhumanely taken through violent means, including through gun and interpersonal violence; and

WHEREAS, although the City of Berkeley honors the bravery and resilience of the transgender individuals who live in their authentic gender and is proud of the existing protections we have in place for transgender individuals to pursue their lives free from discrimination in the San Francisco Bay Area, we reaffirm our commitment to ongoing efforts to promote full inclusion of transgender individuals in Berkeley and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is grateful to the organizations that provide valuable resources to transgender individuals, such as care navigation, counseling, mentorship, and legal services, including, but not limited to, the Berkeley Free Clinic, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, Oasis Legal Services, Pacific Center for Human Growth, Partnerships for Trauma Recovery, and UC Berkeley's Gender Equity Resource Center.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council does hereby declare the month of November as Transgender Awareness Month and November 20 as Transgender Day of Remembrance in the City of Berkeley and authorizes the city manager to fly the Transgender Pride Flag annually at the Civic Center in November.