



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Jim Lopez, Deputy City Manager of External Affairs  
Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager  
Daniel Lazo, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator

**Date:** February 5, 2026

**Subject:** **2026 Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation**

### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, proclaims Tuesday, March 31, 2026, as Transgender Day of Visibility.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual observance on March 31, celebrating the lives of transgender people throughout the world.
- This proclamation aligns with Kirkland's City values and strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB).
- This proclamation was issued last year by the Mayor but is not part of the City Council's adopted 2026 proclamation schedule. The Council approved this proclamation as being read on behalf of the City Council at the March 3, 2026 Council meeting.

### BACKGROUND:

Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual observance on March 31, celebrating the lives of transgender people throughout the world. In 2009, Rachel Crandall Crocker (she/her), a psychotherapist and executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Transgender Michigan, created Transgender Day of Visibility in response to the overwhelming mischaracterization, misrepresentation, and stereotypes of trans people in media. Crocker recognized that, while Transgender Day of Remembrance honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost to senseless violence, transphobia, self-harm, and structural inequities, celebrating a Transgender Day of Visibility would uplift the joy of transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive people who are still alive.

## DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Due to discrimination and violence, not every transgender person can or wants to be visible. In the 2021 Public Health-Seattle & King County Pride Survey Report,<sup>1</sup> 54% of transgender and gender-diverse respondents experienced misgendering or being called their birth name after having chosen a new name (known colloquially in the transgender community as being “deadnamed”) in healthcare settings within the last year. Furthermore, 34% reported physical or verbal mistreatment in these settings. In 2021, 67.3% of transgender students in King County reported experiencing depressive symptoms, a rate nearly double the county average of 34.6%.<sup>2</sup> As the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Plus (2SLGBTQIA+) community increasingly feels isolated, Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes that the transgender and gender diverse community deserves safe spaces not just to survive, but to live and thrive together.

Allies can show solidarity by silencing further harm with continued support beyond Pride Month through sustained year-round efforts, normalizing pronoun usage, and promoting the significant contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals make to the world. Transgender, gender expansive, and non-binary community members are neighbors, business owners, artists, advocates, activists, family members, and friends who, like everyone, deserve to live free from discrimination and harassment of any form.

This proclamation aligns with Kirkland’s City values and strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). Council has adopted legislation supporting these values, including:

- **Resolution R-5240** (2017) declaring Kirkland a safe, inclusive, welcoming community for all people;
- **Resolution R-5434** (2020) expressing commitments to improving the safety and respect of Black people and approving the framework to create a community committed to examining and dismantling interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism in Kirkland;
- **Resolution R-5548** (2022) adopting the City’s DEIB 5-Year Roadmap;
- **Resolution R-5686** (2025) declaring Kirkland as a welcoming, inclusive, and safe city for the 2SLGBTQIA+ people and recognizing their human rights and well-being; and
- **Resolution R-5693** (2025) reaffirming the City’s commitment to being a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community where all people belong.

## NEXT STEPS:

The person accepting this proclamation will be announced at the Council meeting.

## ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – 2026 Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation

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<sup>1</sup> Tordoff DM, Martin A, Fernandez A, Gross B, Caracciolo B, Minalga B, Perry NL, Lentini S, Heberling WB, Barry M, Slaughter F, Moreno C, Buskin S, Golden MR, Glick SN. (2022) 2021 Pride Survey Report: Social Determinants of Health and Barriers to Health Care for LGBTQ+ People in Washington State. Public Health—Seattle & King County; Seattle, WA

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.communitiescount.org/blog/2023/9/5/experiences-of-diverse-youth-mental-health-providers-in-king-county>



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Transgender Day of Visibility March 31, 2026

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, Rachel Crandall Crocker (she/her), a psychotherapist and executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Transgender Michigan, created International Transgender Day of Visibility to celebrate the lives of transgender people throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Crocker recognized that, while Transgender Day of Remembrance honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost to senseless violence, transphobia, self-harm, and structural inequities, celebrating a Transgender Day of Visibility would uplift the joy of transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive people who are still alive; and

**WHEREAS**, Transgender Day of Visibility is an opportunity for transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive people to feel seen through positive and realistic representation and for allies to learn more about how they can stand in solidarity; and

**WHEREAS**, transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive community members are our neighbors, business owners, artists, advocates, activists, family members, and friends, who deserve to live free from discrimination and harassment of any form; and

**WHEREAS**, the City honors the transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive people of Kirkland for their resilience and activism within our community, and the City acknowledges that work still needs to be done to address transphobic violence, particularly at this time when transgender rights and existence are being challenged throughout our country and world; and

**WHEREAS**, allies can show solidarity through silencing further harm with continued support beyond Pride Month through sustained year-round efforts; normalizing pronoun usage; and promoting the significant contributions to the world made by 2SLGBTQAI+ individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City welcomes and celebrates queer and transgender individuals, affirming their right and dignity to live authentically, safely, and without fear of discrimination or harm.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Mayor Kelli Curtis, on behalf of the Kirkland City Council, proclaims March 31, 2026, as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Kirkland, and invites our community to celebrate the lives of transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive people everywhere to foster a more equitable and inclusive community.

Signed this 17th day of March, 2026

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Kelli Curtis, Mayor