



**The Traverse City Human Rights Commission**  
**A Resolution In Support Of Accessible Gender Neutral Bathrooms**

- WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission strives to ensure human dignity through advocacy, education, negotiation, and information to ensure understanding and respect among all residents of and visitors to Traverse City; and
- WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission was formed with a purpose to foster mutual understanding and respect among all groups and to discourage discriminatory practices, to formulate and carry out programs of community education and information, receive and act as conciliator regarding occurrences of acts of prejudice or discrimination, and secure the cooperation of various community groups in educational campaigns devoted to eliminating prejudice and discrimination; and
- WHEREAS, members of the community appeared at a public meeting on March 13, 2017, to inform the Human Rights Commission of experiences of discrimination and prejudice and in support of an effort to ensure safe and accessible access to public restrooms for all individuals; and
- WHEREAS, members of the community shared personal stories of discrimination, embarrassment, humiliation, and physical ailments from lack of available gender-neutral, private, and safe restrooms and changing areas; and
- WHEREAS, discrimination, embarrassment, humiliation, and physical ailments are unacceptable consequences of a person's gender transition, expression or identity, or sexual orientation; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Traverse City maintains public restrooms throughout its jurisdiction;
- WHEREAS, public restrooms are used by a variety of community members and visitors, who may not identify or express as a binary gender, or who may be experiencing a gender transition, or who may have special needs based on ability, family status, or other characteristics.

WHEREAS, this issue implicates equal protection issues under the Constitution as well as federal laws such as Title VII and Title IX that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Human Rights Commission conveys to the City of Traverse City that it is the will and desire of the community that public restrooms be made accessible to individuals on the basis of their personal gender identity or expression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Human Rights Commission recommends that the City prohibit discrimination against or interference with any individual peaceably using a public restroom based on the individual's gender identity or expression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Human Rights Commission recommends that the City ensure that public restrooms offer at least one private and gender neutral restroom for each pair of restrooms designated for use by males or females.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taylor Nash", is written over a horizontal line.

Taylor Nash, Chairman  
Human Rights Commission