



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND

PROCLAIMING RICHLAND A WELCOMING CITY FOR ALL PEOPLE

WHEREAS, Article I, Section I of the Washington State Constitution declares that “governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights”; and

WHEREAS, Richland believes in the dignity, equality and constitutional and civil rights of all people, who deserve to live free from unlawful discrimination, harassment or any behavior that creates fear, isolation or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, both federal and state legislative authorities have established laws against discrimination, codified in Washington as Chapter 49.60 RCW and as Title VII; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 49.60.010, the Washington State Legislature finds and declares “practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability ... threatens not only the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 49.60.030, the “right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability is recognized as and declared to be a civil right of the people of this state”; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted the Richland Human Rights Ordinance, codified as Title 25 RMC, with the express purpose to “promote equality and understanding among all citizens, to establish fair employment practices and fair housing practices in the city, and to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment in credit and insurance transactions, in places of public resort, accommodation, or amusement, and in real property transactions because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, age or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby declares its affirmation to support, uphold, and enforce all applicable laws within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City’s adopted Vision Statement, the vision of the City and its citizens is to continue to be “a progressive, safe and family-friendly community that welcomes diversity.” Richland’s vibrancy and sense of community is stronger for its diversity and shared values of acceptance and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert J. Thompson, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Richland, Washington, do hereby proclaim that the City of Richland is a city that strives in all instances and through all actions to be a welcoming City, where unlawful discrimination is not and shall not be tolerated, where laws apply equally to all citizens, and where all individuals, families, and businesses are welcome so that they may flourish and prosper within its boundaries.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the official seal of the City of Richland, Washington, on this 21st day of November, 2017.


Robert J. Thompson, Mayor