

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260249)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing March 31, 2026 as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Philadelphia, a day to celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions of Transgender people, and to lift up the joy, light, and laughter that Transgender people experience and bring into our communities.

WHEREAS, We celebrate Transgender, Non-binary, and gender expansive Philadelphians. We honor their vibrancy, their resilience, and their ability to imagine, to live, and to invite all of us into a world that exists beyond the gender binary; and

WHEREAS, International Transgender Day of Visibility takes place annually on March 31st to celebrate Transgender and Non-binary people and to recognize the myriad contributions that they bring to our communities; and

WHEREAS, Transgender Day of Visibility was created by Rachel Crandall-Crocker, because she was tired of attending funerals and remembrances for Trans lives lost, and wanted a day for Trans people and cis people alike to celebrate existence and be together; and

WHEREAS, Trans people have existed in Philadelphia since before the founding of our City, and Philadelphia is a City that has been and continues to be a haven where Trans people can live and be in community with each other; and

WHEREAS, Tremendous Trans community members and leaders from Philadelphia, and especially Black and Brown Trans women leaders, including Janis Stacy, Ebony Ali, Tyrell Brown, Madelyn Morrison, Celena Morrison, Ovid Amorson, Deej McCoy, Elizabeth Coffey Williams, Lia Thomas, Valentina Rosario, Jaci Adams, Henry Sias, Dawn Munro, Kathleen Padilla, Sharron Cooks, Charlene Arcila, Naiymah Sanchez, Hazel Edwards, Jazmyn Henderson, Paris Gayle, Sapphira Cristal, and many other unsung heroes, serve as role models and inspirations to every community that intersects with who they are and the experience they have; and

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WHEREAS, We celebrate everything Transgender people have accomplished throughout history, and we recognize that Transgender people have contributed and continue to contribute to the betterment of our society and our City. We honor the life of Ms. Jaci Adams, Ms. Charlene Arcila, Ms. Nizah Morris, and Ms. Dawn Munro for their contribution to moving Philadelphia forward. We uplift the names and work of Ms. Sylvia Rivera, Miss Major, and Ms. Marsha P. Johnson, who were instrumental in the fight against all forms of oppression, participating in the 1965 Dewey lunch counter protests in Philadelphia, the formation of STAR, the 1969 Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that visibility alone is not enough. Until we have justice and equity for Transgender and Non-binary people, visibility will always carry some risk and may not be possible for all. Recent advances in equity and visibility won by Transgender and Non-binary advocates include expanding nondiscrimination protections for Transgender residents in housing, healthcare, credit, lending, and education, government funding for Trans healthcare, and increasing the visibility of Transgender people in critical leadership roles. Despite hard-earned victories led by Trans and Non-binary leaders, there is a growing hateful and proto-genocidal effort to ban discussion and expression, invasively police bodies, regulate appearance, and deny life-saving medical care. This cruel and abhorrent campaign has had a profound effect on the health and physical safety of Trans and Non-binary folks, particularly Black and Brown Trans women; and

WHEREAS, Civil rights victories won by Trans activists have expanded judicial and legislative recognition of the fundamental rights for gender identity and expression and provided a greater number of people with the basic protections needed to ensure human dignity and self-determination. However, these rights are currently under extreme threat; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing and dangerous nationwide effort to fundamentally attack and eradicate Transgender youth and Transgender lives. As of the start of 2026, there are 740 anti-Trans bills that have been introduced in 42 states, 22 of which have passed and 687 that are still actively being considered by the legislature. In this climate, Transgender visibility can carry the risk of devastating consequences, including fear of state separation of children from loving families, imprisonment, and forced detransition; and

WHEREAS, Now, more than ever, Trans people are under threat. President Trump has signed several executive actions directly affecting the LGBTQ+ community, specifically non-binary, Transgender, and intersex people. These harmful executive orders include prohibiting Trans girls from participating in school sports, directing federal agencies to take action to prevent gender-affirming care from being provided to people under the age of 19, reinstating the global gag rule, expanding and reinstating the military ban on Transgender servicemembers, placing restrictions on federal gender markers such as passports that require a person to use their sex assigned at birth, removing protections for LGBTQ+ youth in schools, and attempting to dictate to educators, students, and their parents on what youth can learn, read, say, and who they can be; and

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WHEREAS, The hundreds of anti-Trans bills passed or introduced have created thousands of Trans refugees in our country as individuals and families are forced to flee to places where they are safer. These harmful attacks on Trans lives have also resulted in powerful resistance, support, and solidarity, especially amongst Trans youth communities and organizations who have courageously led the fight against these efforts and have expanded protections and access to healthcare in states and cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and celebrate the work of Trans advocacy groups, which continue the fight for dignity and equal rights for members of the Trans community. These efforts are building inclusive and healing spaces, and protecting and defending those who are most vulnerable, including disabled folks and people in prison; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and celebrate the work of Trans mutual aid groups, collectives, and activist groups who often go unacknowledged, unappreciated, and unfunded because of systemic barriers to access for Black and Brown leaders and Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender non-conforming leaders; and

WHEREAS, Many Transgender people are killed and not honored because the media misreports their identities. For each Transgender person killed or lost this year and in years past, we mourn them, we honor them, and we re-commit to fighting for them and for a world where deaths like theirs never happen again; and

WHEREAS, As we grieve the loss of Transgender elders and celebrate and remember everything they have given us, we are excited for the next generation of Transgender youth to take charge, to push us all to be and do better, to thrive, to outgrow the wisdom of this generation and create their own; and

WHEREAS, Transgender people are resilient and exist through attempted genocides, discrimination, violence, and hate with strength, tenacity, joy, humanity, and power that demonstrates the best in human nature and will once again triumph against those who seek to oppress; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, we are steadfast in affirming our commitment to uphold our municipal laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations, and our intention to vigorously uphold protections for Transgender and Non-binary young people that were recently passed into law; and

WHEREAS, We believe in the inherent value of every person, including our Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender expansive community members, without exception; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes March 31, 2026, as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Philadelphia, a day to celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions of Transgender people, and to lift up the joy, light, and laughter that Transgender people experience and bring into our communities.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth day of March, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Landau

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Landau, Phillips, Gauthier, Brooks, O'Rourke
and Squilla