

## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 190223, **Version:** 0

---

Declaring March 31, 2019 as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, We celebrate the existence of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. We value their resilience, their vibrancy, and their ability to push society further towards inclusion for everyone; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that visibility is not always enough. Until we have true justice and equity for transgender and non-binary people, visibility will always carry some risk. Still far too many transgender and non-binary people, in particular trans women of color, continue to face profound threats to their safety and well being; and

WHEREAS, At least one transgender person has already been killed this year. Dana Martin, 31, was a Black transgender woman from Hope Hull, Alabama. She is still loved; 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, even when we do not know their names; and

WHEREAS, Numerous organizations and movements, including the #MeToo movement founded by Tarana Burke and the National Center for Transgender Equality, recognize that transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people face disproportionate rates of violence; and

WHEREAS, In the face of these hardships, transgender people continue to inspire the world with their humor, their art, and their spirit; and

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. In particular, trans women of color including Sylvia Rivera, Miss Major, and Marsha P. Johnson were instrumental in the fight against all forms of oppression, participating in the 1965 Dewey lunch counter protests in Philadelphia, the formation of STAR, and the 1969 Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, Civil rights victories won by trans activists have expanded judicial recognition of constitutional protections 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 still not universally guaranteed, and more work is necessary; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and celebrate the work of trans advocacy groups, which continues 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, 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 survive and thrive, to outgrow the wisdom of this generation and create their own; and

WHEREAS, Transgender people are worth celebrating and uplifting at all times; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, we believe in the inherent value of each and every person, including our transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming community members, without exception; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Declares March 31, 2019 as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Philadelphia.