



Local LGBTQ Organizations and Allies Urge Mecklenburg County Commission to Strengthen and Pass Nondiscrimination Ordinance

As organizations committed to the respect and equality for all people in Charlotte, we urge the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners to pass a strong, comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance.

Mecklenburg County can join Charlotte and 11 other cities and counties in North Carolina with fully comprehensive protections from discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and natural hairstyles. In doing so, Mecklenburg's leaders will create a community where all people can thrive.

Like the ordinance considered and eventually passed with unanimous, bipartisan support by the Charlotte City Council, we call on Mecklenburg commissioners to strengthen its provisions by including all employers, regardless of size. The current draft creates a confusing, unnecessary patchwork for the Community Relations Committee, where Charlotte residents are afforded protections at all employers, while Mecklenburg County's jurisdictions limit who is protected.

We urge Mecklenburg County Commissioners to amend the ordinance to address this important gap – that all employers are covered by the ordinance under the scope of the Community Relations Committee.

It is time for Mecklenburg County to protect all its residents. To do so, we need the strongest ordinance possible to truly protect against discrimination. Thank you for taking action.

Signed,

Daniel Valdez (*he/him*), President, Charlotte Pride

Clark Simon (*he/him*), Vice President, Charlotte Pride

Bishop Tonyia Rawls (*she/her*), Executive Director, The Freedom Center for Social Justice

Cameron Pruette (*he/him*), President, LGBTQ+ Democrats of Mecklenburg County

Bethany Corrigan (*they/them*), Executive Director, Transcend Charlotte

Jenny Jaymes Gunn (*she/they*), Board member of NOW Charlotte Chapter, LGBT Advisor to CRAN, Charlotte Pride's Trans Pride Coordinator

Allison Scott (*she/they*), Director of Impact & Innovation, Campaign for Southern Equality

Chad Turner (*he/him*), President/CEO, Carolinas LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce

Rell Lowery (*he/him*), Transgender Liaison, Charlotte Black Pride

Jennifer Ratajczak, MA, LCMHCS (*she/her*), President of Charlotte Transgender Healthcare Group

Ginger Walker (*she/her*), President, LGBTQ+ Democrats of North Carolina

Kendra R. Johnson (*she/her*), Executive Director, Equality NC