



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Jackson, Chair
Council Member Spadafore, Vice-Chair
Council Member Carter, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherie Boak, Council Office Manager
Matt Staples, OCA

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER CARTER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2025, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

DISCUSSION – Ordinance Amendment/Repeal Chapter 684 Section 684.04

Council Member Jackson noted this is a follow up discussion from the last meeting, to consider as an amendment or repeal. He then read the 684.04 into the record, noting this is a crime if you enter a restroom of the opposite sex. It was brought to Committee attention, and at the last meeting it was asked for options. In the packet today is a draft ordinance to repeal, so the Committee can discuss repealing, amending or doing nothing. Council Member Jackson noted his interest in considering repealing all together without replacement. He cited examples of action that could be grounds to be criminally charged or removed from the building. He supported that anyone coming in to the building should be comfortable with their own bodies and own skin.

Council Member Spadafore stated he had no problem with the rationale, but would be interested in what the County has in their experience with this. This is a good attempt, without looking at other sources of guidance, but it is a conversation with merit for comparison to see other facilities in the County and East Lansing. Also to look at the way to write affirmative language.

Council Member Jackson inquired into what could be affirmative instead of stigmatize, noting he is open to comparing and contrasting. The sooner off the books better, but what is a couple more weeks.

Council Member Spadafore noted in 2019 Ingham County adopted an gender inclusive bathroom policy, looking at that might be a more means to be more inclusive.

Council Member Carter concurred with moving forward, but was also interested in doing the due diligence and doing comparisons across the board.

Council Member Jackson recalled discussions on council with discussions on having a “family bathroom” in the building.

Mr. Staples stated the reason OCA recommended the repeal compared to anything else is because the 684.04 is a criminal prohibition against anyone using a restroom in the City, public or private, that has a sign indicating is for use of opposite sex. OCA looked at it, no way to make inclusive without repealing the criminal aspect. This is just part of the criminal code, and best way to do that is to repeal, then there is no criminal position on using the opposite sex bathroom.

Council Member Spadafore stated that after hearing the reasoning from OCA, he has no problem repealing now.

Council Member Jackson asked if the Committee is interested in exploring something inclusive like the County did. Council Member Spadafore stated that would be another aspect of the law, so his earlier statement is a separate track. Council Member Jackson noted it is the Mayor’s and Councils role to look at this.

Council Member Jackson noted this will then be introduced March 24th with setting the hearing for April 7th.

Council Member Jackson noted a policy falls into the administration. Council Member Spadafore asked OCA to look into the Ingham County policy and see if there is something the City of Lansing can do in an ordinance. Mr. Staples

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 7TH, 2025 FOR REPEALING CHAPTER 684, SECTION 684.04.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Other

Council Member Jackson asked about dropping the time limit from 4 hours to participate remotely. Ms. Boak stated she would speak to the Clerk’s office on the Charter Commission sign up and to see if there were any interested parties that missed the timeline.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on April 9, 2025