Passed: 9-0

RESOLUTION 93-28

TO URGE THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEXUAL ORIENTATION STATEWIDE OR GRANT COMMUNITIES MORE CONTROL OVER MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SO THAT IT CAN BE DONE AT A LOCAL LEVEL

WHEREAS, after a much publicized incident of "gay bashing" last fall, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission held a public hearing to determine the nature and extent of violence and intimidation against homosexuals, and to gather sufficient information to report their recommendations on this matter to the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, testimony at that hearing established that nearly all gay men and lesbian women have experienced harassment of a verbal or physical nature because of their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, such harassment is due at least in part to the lack of legal protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, such harassment and lack of protection against discrimination leads to problems ranging from low self esteem to lack of employment and housing opportunities to high suicidal rates among gay and lesbian teenagers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the testimony presented at the hearing, the report recommended that the City promote more tolerance in our community; establish an effective forum to mediate allegations of discrimination; and, urge the Indiana State Legislature to adopt laws prohibiting hate crimes and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations and education; and

WHEREAS, in response to these recommendations, the Common Council has passed an ordinance that would make it the public policy of the City of Bloomington to discourage discrimination based upon sexual orientation in education, employment, access to public accommodations and access to housing; and

WHEREAS, state law does not grant local human rights commissions the same powers to investigate complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation as it does with regard to complaints based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry and handicap; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to have the power to investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation with the same powers available for the protection against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, and handicap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

The Common Council urges the State Legislature to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation statewide or to grant cities more local control over matters of human rights so that their human rights commissions may investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation with the same powers they have in regard to complaints based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, and handicap.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 8th day of July, 1993.

JACK W. HOPKINS, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 8th day of July, 1993.

TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

Signed copies to
Governor / Lt. Governor
State Legislators (7)
State Attorney General

SYNOPSIS

This resolution urges the legislature to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation statewide or to grant local human rights commissions the same power to investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation as they currently have in regard to complaints of discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry and handicap.