



Mayor Jorge O. Elorza

Statement from the Providence Human Relations Executive Director and the LGBTQIA+ Liaison to Providence Mayor Jorge O. Elorza regarding the Supreme Court's recent ruling on LGBTQIA+ employment protections

Yesterday, in a long-overdue yet landmark decision for the LGBTQIA+ community, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 6-3 that you cannot be disciplined or fired for your sexual orientation or gender identity.

This is a positive step towards discrimination protections in employment and we are pleased by the ruling and the incredible legal precedent it sets throughout the nation. It is a major victory, but the fight for full equality for all of us is far from over.

In Congress, the Equality Act would also prevent discrimination in public accommodations, a critical point for gender identity and expression. You can read more from Lambda Legal here:

<https://www.advocate.com/politics/2020/6/15/how-todays-scotus-decision-doesnt-protect-lgbtq-people>

We also want to take the time to remember the transgender people of color, who, despite the human right to live authentically, are being murdered for who they know themselves to be. Riah Milton and Dominique "Rem'Mie" Fells were women of color killed just last week in Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. We condemn this and will continue to work day in and day out with the community to make Providence a safe, affirming, and inclusive city.

We urge every member of the Providence community to look inward towards accountability and responsibility to equity, equality, and the community at large. We encourage any member of Providence LGBTQIA+ communities to reach out if there is something our city might be able to do better.

In love and unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andi Wheeler".

Andi Wheeler, they/them
Executive Director, Providence Human Relations Commission
awheeler@providenceri.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Lazzerini".

Joe Lazzerini, he/him
LGBTQIA+ Liaison to Mayor Jorge O. Elorza
jlazzerini@providenceri.gov