

A resolution affirming the City of Robbinsdale's commitment to maintaining and sustaining the City's values and interests in welcoming and serving all people to our community, and in the orderly functioning of government and public sector systems:

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale recognizes that our community includes people of many races, ethnicities, Tribes, and nationalities; that our community is linguistically and culturally diverse; that our community includes people of different gender identities and sexual orientations, including people who are transgender and non-binary; that our community includes LGBTQ+ people; that our community includes people of different religions and people who are not affiliated with any religion; that our community includes immigrants, both recent and historical, both documented and undocumented; that our community includes people with different abilities and disabilities; that our community includes people of all ages, from babies to elders; that our community includes people who receive public benefits including economic assistance, health care coverage, nutrition assistance, child care supports, small business and other types of loans and grants, road and highway maintenance, access to state and national parks, and other services; that our community is made up of people from all walks of life, who may be employed, unemployed, and underemployed, who are renters, homeowners and the unhoused; in sum, that our community is made up of a diversity of people with different identities, cultures, experiences, and means; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of the Robbinsdale Police Department (RPD), in conjunction with the Hennepin County Chiefs of Police Association, recently issued a joint statement declaring the RPD's intent to "remain steadfast in our commitment to serve and protect everyone in our communities – regardless of immigration status," and further affirming that "Civil immigration violations fall outside of our jurisdiction and are the responsibility of federal authorities. Our officers do not ask for citizenship status or immigration papers."; and

WHEREAS, this RPD affirmation is consistent with the City of Robbinsdale's long established commitment to welcoming and supporting its immigrant residents regardless of immigration status as shown by, for example:

- the City's adoption of Resolution No. 6744 on Aug. 6, 2007, titled "A Resolution Calling for the Creation of a Path Toward Lawful Permanent Resident Status for Liberians Currently Protected by Temporary Protected Status and for the Extension of Temporary Protected Status Until Such a Permanent Solution Is Enacted;" and
- the City's adoption of Resolution No. 7958 on Oct. 17, 2017, titled "A Resolution Designating Robbinsdale as a Welcoming City to Immigrants And Refugees;" and

WHEREAS, the City welcomes and supports its LGBTQ+ and Transgender residents, as shown by, for example:

- the City's implementation of a domestic partnership registry in 2011 to provide "a means by which committed couples who reside in Robbinsdale and who share a life and home together may document their relationship, and enjoy recognition of and respect for their human rights." (Ord. No. 11-08, codified at [Robbinsdale City Code Section 1015](#));

- the City’s adoption of Resolution No. 7164 on June 19, 2012 titled “Robbinsdale City Council Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Marriage Amendment”;
- and the City’s prohibition of the discredited and harmful practice of so-called “conversion therapy” when used on minors and vulnerable adults adopted in 2021 (Ord. No. 21-01, codified at [Robbinsdale City Code Section 2050](#)); and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need for and is committed to improving its laws and systems to support Robbinsdale in being an inclusive and equitable community for all residents, for example by acknowledging the impacts of laws and systems that have been used in Robbinsdale to prevent people of color from buying or living in homes and to perpetuate racial segregation in housing, and supporting efforts to raise awareness about these practices. This is important because homeowner rates for people of color in Minnesota are disproportionately low compared to white people, and people of color are disproportionately represented in Robbinsdale’s renter population. These actions include:

- the City’s actions to amend Robbinsdale’s repeat nuisance call law to reduce disparities in consequences for renters vs. homeowners, as shown by [Ord. No. 21-12](#) (amending Robbinsdale City Code Sections 425 and 927);
- adoption of Resolution No. 7832 adopted on July 17, 2020 titled “A Resolution Informing the Public Regarding Racially Restrictive Covenants and Directing Staff to Provide Information and Instructions to the Public of the Process to Remove Said Covenants”¹; and

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale believes in the public sector for the public good, and a top priority goal for the City of Robbinsdale is to continue to promote diversity, equity and inclusion across City operations; and

WHEREAS, one way the City implements this value and goal is through the work of its Community Engagement Coordinator, a position created in YEAR?, which focuses on building and strengthening community engagement with City programs and services across all parts and with all communities in Robbinsdale, and

WHEREAS, in 2023[?], the City established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee made up of City staff to support the City in improving and maintaining its internal systems, operations, and policies in ways that are consistent with its values and commitment to providing a demographically diverse, inclusive, and equitable workplace for City employees; and

WHEREAS, policies, systems and programs to support diversity, equity, and inclusion do not constitute *per se* illegal discrimination, and are actually helpful and/or necessary to help employers, worksites, and organizations comply with anti-discrimination laws, as explained by guidance from 16 state attorneys general offices, including the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office

¹ Found here, on p. 101:
<https://weblink.robbinsdalemn.com/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=791661&dbid=0&repo=Robbinsdale>

(<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/DEI%20Guidance%202.13%20FINAL.pdf>); and

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale and its residents rely on various federal grants and funding, such as Community Development Block Grants for local human services nonprofits; federal nutrition assistance programs serving Robbinsdale schools, child care programs, local food shelves, and residents; Head Start programs providing early education; funding for the Departments of Education, Human Services, Health, Agriculture, Pollution Control Agency, and other state agencies; Veterans Affairs funding; funding for the National Park Service; and others; and

WHEREAS, federal workers provide valuable services for the City of Robbinsdale and its residents, such as the critical safety services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration; essential scientific research, health data, and community health programs provided by CDC and the National Institutes of Health; monitoring of food safety provided by the CDC and FDA; oversight of drug and medical device safety by the FDA; administration and stewardship of national parks by the National Park Service; essential health care services for veterans provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; essential health care services for Native Americans through the Indian Health Service including through American Indian health centers and programs in nearby Minneapolis; emergency disaster response by FEMA; oversight of federal labor and workplace protections by the Department of Labor and OSHA; response to security threats, protection of innovation, and prevention of domestic terrorism by the FBI and CIA; special education assistance by the Department of Education; and these are just a few of the many essential and important jobs performed by federal workers that are being reduced or eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Robbinsdale strives to be a leader in sustainable energy action, and in 2023 adopted an Energy Action Plan that seeks to remove structural barriers to equitably serve all community members, improve quality of life for present and future generations, and make Robbinsdale resilient and adaptable to the changing climate; and

WHEREAS, the City, our residents, and our businesses have fundamental and legally protected interests in the safety, integrity and, for residents and businesses, the privacy of data relating to our finances, bank accounts, taxes, medical and health conditions, and personally-identifiable information;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA: that the City of Robbinsdale affirms its commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community where all residents can live free from discrimination, harassment, and fear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale will continue to promote policies and programs that embrace diversity, strengthen community bonds, and support the contributions of

immigrant, refugee, LGBTQ+, and people of all races, nationalities, genders, religions, ability levels, ages, and economic statuses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale upholds the principles of human dignity and equality by ensuring all residents can access city services and live without fear of discrimination or persecution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale commits to ensuring all residents feel safe reporting crimes, accessing emergency services, and seeking city assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale is concerned about impacts of the freezing of federal grant funding and/or cancelling of federal contracts which fund essential and important services and supports for the City and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale is concerned about ongoing efforts to demolish the federal civil service system with legally questionable, ill-planned and poorly executed large scale terminations, which are wasting the valuable expertise of government workers, undermining the ability of federal programs and agencies to provide critical services necessary for the health and welfare of City residents, interfering with the sound administration of the federal government; and causing unnecessary waste of scarce federal resources to defend against litigation as a result of these hasty and poorly implemented actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale is concerned about the replacement of scientific experts with lay decision-makers on issues of scientific research methodologies and funding priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale objects to reversing climate action and environmental justice policies, such as withdrawing from the Paris Accords; pulling back from supporting clean and sustainable energy production and instead elevating oil and gas production, including on formerly protected federal lands; canceling and eliminating future grants and funding for climate resiliency work; and attempting to limit local authority to address climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale objects to improper access to critical information that violates privacy rights and risks misuse of valuable proprietary information by the federal Department of Government Efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale affirms its support for equity and racial justice and will continue the City's DEI efforts and advance its work to be a city that is inclusive, equitable, and welcoming to all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Robbinsdale instructs staff to share this Resolution with our state and Congressional representatives and offer our support to advocate for these principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Robbinsdale instructs staff to support other cities and counties taking similar actions, and partner with others to build collective action in support of our values and commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive city for all peoples.