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ORDINANCE NO. 880

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE ENTIRETY OF THE SHORELINE MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODIFY ANY AND ALL GENDER SPECIFIC LANGUAGE TO GENDER NEUTRAL LANGUAGE.

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Municipal Code ("SMC") was established in 1995 when the City incorporated and currently includes gender-specific pronouns and terms such as he, she, man, or woman; and

WHEREAS, in January 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 401 stating that the City is an inviting, equitable, and safe community for all and the 2019-2021 City Council Goals speak to improving inclusion and equity within the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the City Council's intent to have the City's ordinances and resolutions expressed in gender-neutral terms so as to reflect the City's values of inclusion and equality; and

WHEREAS, the SMC needs to be amended to prohibit the use of gender-specific pronouns and terms, to eliminate any gender preference language currently existing within the SMC, and to replace such language with gender neutral terms;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendments to Shoreline Municipal Code, Chapter 1.05 Code Adoption.

A. Adding a New Section, SMC 1.05.025 Gender neutral terms.

All ordinances and resolutions enacted, adopted, or amended by the City shall be written in gender-neutral terms unless a specification of gender is necessary and intended. No ordinance or resolution is invalid because it does not comply with this section.

B. Adding a New Subsection G to SMC 1.05.040 Codification authority.

G. Editing ordinances as necessary to replace gender-specific terms with gender-neutral terms.

C. Amending Section 1.05.050 Definitions.

H. Gender. ~~The masculine~~ ~~g~~Gender-neutral pronouns includes the feminine and masculine genders ~~neuter~~;

Section 2. Directions to City Codifier.

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A. Subject to final approval by the City Attorney, the City's codifier, Code Publishing Company, has authority to update terms within every title, chapter, and section of the Shoreline Municipal Code, when appropriate, as it exists on the effective date of this Ordinance to provide for gender neutral terms.

B. Gender-specific subject (he, she), object (him, her), and possessive (his, hers) pronouns and gender-specific terms (man, woman) and gender-specific positions (chairman, policeman) shall be replaced by gender-neutral terms unless the specification of gender is necessary.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance or its application to any person or situation be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to any person or situation.

Section 4. Publication and Effective Date. A summary of this Ordinance consisting of the title shall be published in the official newspaper and shall take effect five days after publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 27, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Simulcik Smith
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Julie Ainsworth-Taylor
Assistant City Attorney

Date of Publication: January 30, 2020
Effective Date: February 4, 2020