



Oklahomans for Equality (OkEq) Applauds the Visionary Proposal

Oklahomans for Equality (OkEq) applauds the visionary proposal made by two City Council members late last week. This proposal aligns with 87% of the Fortune 500 Companies who include Sexual Orientation in their Non-Discrimination policies. If put in place, Tulsa will also follow other cities who have recently made these changes, such as Nashville, Tallahassee, Salt Lake City and Kalamazoo among dozens of others.

This employment practice will help break the national image Oklahoma has of being racist, uneducated, intolerant of others, homophobic and just all around mean spirited. Not only will this protect City Employees from discrimination, it will help employers around Tulsa recruit top talent and market the area as a place that all are welcome.

“Both City Councilor G.T. Bynum and Maria Barnes are city visionaries in my mind” says Kris Wilmes, Director of Advocacy and Education at OkEq, “They get what it takes to be an employer of choice and that having policies in place which encourage an open and inclusive work environment is crucial.” Tulsa City Civil Commission approved of the proposal last week, moving it next to the Mayor and City Council for review and approval. “Worries that this will automatically include Domestic Partner Benefits are ridiculous.” Kris says. “Thousands of companies have this policy in place and DO NOT have Domestic Partner Benefits. The two are separate issues.”

OkEq notes that many Tulsans don’t realize that employment discrimination based on Sexual Orientation occurs frequently. Unfortunately this goes unreported and unnoticed a majority of the time. OkEq urges you to get involved and make sure Mayor Bartlett and the entire City Council understand your support of these changes.”

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MISSION STATEMENT
Oklahomans for Equality
(OkEq) seeks equal rights for
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender (LGBT)
individuals and families
through advocacy, education,
programs, alliances, and the
operation of the Dennis R.
Neill Equality Center