



Help pass a fully-inclusive
Human Rights Ordinance
in Jacksonville!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jacksonville Coalition for Equality Issues Statement in Response to Mayor Curry's Discrimination Announcement

—Councilman Jim Love signs on as Co-sponsor of Hazouri-Bowman Bill—

(Jacksonville, FL)— The Jacksonville Coalition for Equality (JCE) has issued an official statement in response to the notice and memo announced earlier today by Mayor Lenny Curry regarding discrimination in Jacksonville:

The Jacksonville Coalition for Equality is pleased that Mayor Curry's Executive Order prohibits discrimination in the City of Jacksonville based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. The order will cover employment by the city and will require contractors to also have policies in place. This is an important step and a clear recognition of the need to protect LGBT people in Jacksonville, by requiring the same level of protection in employment as that provided by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). We are pleased that the Mayor has recognized the very real problem of discrimination in our City and we're heartened that he has taken this first step.

Mayor Curry has shown leadership on this issue after hearing directly from people in Jacksonville.

"The Mayor pledged to listen to the community and find a Jacksonville solution to the discrimination that those conversations revealed," said Dan Merkan, chair, Jacksonville Coalition for Equality. "We thank Mayor Curry for keeping his word and for taking this important step in providing protections for those who work or do business with the city. Now we are focused on ensuring that those same protections extend to all who live and work and visit our city.

"We will continue to support bill 2016-002, oppose the 2016-001 referendum bill, and work for full equality for all LGBT citizens of Jacksonville. Our City Council has been extremely professional in their handling of this important issue, and we will continue to work with our 19 members towards a successful conclusion to this process," said Merkan.

Jacksonville City Councilman Jim Love, a Republican who represents District 14, also announced that he would be co-sponsoring 2016-002. Love is joining Councilmembers Tommy Hazouri (D) and Aaron Bowman (R) in co-sponsoring legislation that will create lasting protections that the LGBT community and businesses can count on for years to come.