

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION
Proclaiming support for the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
2023-2024 Rise Up campaign

WHEREAS young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression; and

WHEREAS K-12 schools must be safe and liberatory learning environments that include and affirm Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual, Queer/Questioning plus (LGBTQI+) young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and from all communities that experience marginalization; and

WHEREAS advocates have designated 2023-2024 as a time for communities to Rise Up in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools; and

WHEREAS LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline; and

WHEREAS 96% of LGBTQ+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQ+ remarks from students in California schools, and almost half of California students (46%) experienced at least one form of anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination at school; and

WHEREAS LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression; and

WHEREAS nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year, a trend that increases among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQI+ young people; and


WHEREAS every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them; and

WHEREAS young people who develop in positive school climates, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes; and

WHEREAS positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too a low bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito does hereby support the goals and ideals of the Rise Up campaign and encourages other municipalities to support the Rise Up campaign and consider laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.



Dated: June 6, 2023


Lisa Motoyama, Mayor