

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-03

ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAPORTE COUNTY
ESTABLISHING THE LAPORTE COUNTY NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

WHEREAS, LaPorte County, Indiana ("County") has gained a reputation for welcoming and promoting diversity among its citizens, visitors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County has for years insisted that all vendors, contractors, grant recipients, and anyone receiving public funds or benefits of any kind not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, or United States military service veteran status; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing policy serves a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2015, Governor Michael Pence signed Senate Enrolled Act 101, also known as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act ("RFRA"), which will become effective on July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, RFRA, in combination with other Indiana laws, may be interpreted to permit discrimination by claiming a substantial burden on the exercise of religion; and

WHEREAS, given the County's efforts of promoting and welcoming diversity among its citizens, visitors, and businesses, it is necessary to affirm the County's commitment to inclusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordained as follows:

1. The County hereby affirms its policy that no vendor, contractor, grant recipient, or anyone receiving public funds or benefits of any kind shall discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, or United States military service status, and any breach of this Policy shall continue to be considered a material breach of the relationship with the County.
2. The County hereby requests the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor to expressly add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in state law.
3. The County hereby requests the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor to expressly exempt the County's ordinances, resolutions, executive or administrative orders, regulations, customs, and usages from RFRA's application.

SO ORDAINED THIS 3rd June DAY OF MAY, 2015

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF
LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA



Dave Decker, Commissioner



Vidya Kora, Commissioner

Vidya Kora, Commissioner



Michael Bohacek, Commissioner

Michael Bohacek, Commissioner

Attest:



Joie Winski, LaPorte County Auditor