



Executive Order 2016-2

April 14, 2016

**Prohibition on Non-Essential City Funded Travel to North Carolina and Mississippi
Following Passage of Laws Limiting Access to Public Services and Protections**

WHEREAS, the City of Providence is committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and gender non-conforming individuals who reside, travel, and work here; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Elorza has appointed an LGBT Liaison to ensure that all City departments are responsive to the needs of the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, Providence has adopted an expansive healthcare policy to cover gender transition-related healthcare needs for transgender and gender non-conforming employees and retirees; and

WHEREAS, governments have a fundamental obligation to provide equitable protection for all, especially the most vulnerable members of the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Providence is committed to preventing discrimination and speaking out against inequitable treatment of individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other fiber of being that does not impose upon the rights and liberties of others; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has violated this obligation through its recent passage of the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, which prohibits localities from extending anti-discrimination protections to LGBT persons and bans transgender persons from using sex-segregated bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Providence has made it a priority to expand gender neutral restrooms in publicly-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has fostered a discriminatory environment toward LGBT persons through the recent passage of the Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act, which allows businesses to deny products and services to LGBT persons based on religious and moral convictions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence stands alongside the LGBT community and those fighting for equality in North Carolina, Mississippi, and elsewhere across the country; and

WHEREAS, Providence welcomes any individuals or businesses that are considering leaving North Carolina or Mississippi to relocate here in light of these discriminatory actions;

NOW THEREFORE, do I, Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of the City of Providence, order the following, effective immediately:

1. No officer or employee of the City of Providence is authorized to utilize City funds for non-essential official travel to the State of North Carolina or the State of Mississippi, until the aforementioned legislation is enjoined or repealed.
2. This Executive Order shall remain in full force and effect until judicial or legislative action in the States of North Carolina and Mississippi has restored the rights of LGBT individuals.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Jorge O. Elorza in black ink.

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

Dated: April 14, 2016

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 21 2016

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CITY CLERK
IS ORDERED THAT
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Clerk