PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, there has been significant controversy and confusion surrounding recent state legislation; and

WHEREAS, West Lafayette is home to Purdue University, a world class university with the highest number of international students of any public institution; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Purdue University, West Lafayette celebrates and respects its eclectic population and celebrates the enrichments this population brings to our community and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, since 1968, West Lafayette has had a Human Relations ordinance in order to provide all of its citizens equal opportunities and seek the elimination of discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance and to prevent prejudice, intolerance and bigotry; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this ordinance, West Lafayette encourages mutual self-respect and understanding of each other by all groups in the city and helps guarantee equal rights to all citizens as afforded by the West Lafayette City Code and other ordinances of the city, the laws of the state and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 West Lafayette's Human Relations Commission asserted its belief that all citizens should be free from intolerance, discrimination and fear, and adopted a policy to investigate and conciliate complaints on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 the West Lafayette Common Council adopted Resolution No. 27-93, stating in part that "fair and equal treatment should be extended to all citizens of West Lafayette regardless of sexual orientation"; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 West Lafayette's Human Relations Commission voted unanimously that its policy statement adopted in 1993 be expanded to include gender identity, gender expression, and veteran status, and that such policy was adopted by the West Lafayette Common Council pursuant to Resolution No. 11-10; and

WHEREAS, West Lafayette is primed for substantial growth in the near future and the perception of intolerance may negatively impact the City's opportunity for economic development; and

WHEREAS, West Lafayette is a welcoming community that has fifty-four different countries represented in its population and recognizes that diversity strengthens a community and should be encouraged by all lawful means.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the undersigned elected officials of the City of West Lafayette that it is the policy of the City that: All people from all walks of life are welcomed to live, work, learn, visit and prosper in West Lafayette. Diversity of all types in our population strengthens each of us and our City as a whole. And discrimination in any form against any person weakens our City and must be strongly opposed by the City with all available legal means and measures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed, the great Seal of the City of West Lafayette this 2nd day of April, 2015