

From: Dustin Smith-Salinas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Tracy City Council <tracycitycouncil@cityoftracy.org>
Subject: Regarding Agenda Item 3.E 2/15/22

City Council Members,

I am writing to express my alarm and disappointment with the city council for considering spending Tracy tax dollars on travel to the State of Texas. I have sent an email to each of you independently, as well.

In 2017, the State of California banned state employees from traveling to the State of Texas in response to Texas' homophobic legislation that made it legal for adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people who hope to make their own family and adopt.

In recent years, Texas legislators have failed to pass bills that would protect LGBTQ+ children and adults, including failure to no longer tell students that "homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle choice" (HB726). Texas state legislators also failed to update the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act to include gender identity (HB73) and have failed to ban conversion therapy.

As of January 18, 2022, an anti-trans bill went into place to ban trans youth in Texas from playing sports (HB 25).

Not only is the State of Texas trampling on the rights of LGBTQ+ citizens but in 2021, Texas enacted SB 8, a bill that effectively banned abortion and made it illegal to have abortions in Texas after six weeks. This law is appalling and turns a blind eye to the constitutional right that American women have via Roe v. Wade.

I'll spare you the full list of concerns regarding Texas and civil rights, but each of the above, and the many others should be more than enough to ensure as a city, we stand firm to not spend city tax dollars in a state that has such little care or concern for the equal and constitutional rights of LGBTQ+ persons and women.

I ask you to please deny the request to approve city funded travel to TX and instead look for a similar event that may be happening in another city/state or virtually.

I ask you, city council members, to please stand up for the LGBTQ+ citizens of Tracy and reject the idea of spending money in a state that treats LGBTQ+ people as second-class citizens.

I ask you, city council members, to reject spending tax dollars in a state that is willing to strip the rights away from women.

Vote NO on agenda item 3.E.

-Dustin Smith-Salinas
Tracy homeowner and tax payer