

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Monthly Newsletter of the Asheville Area Gay/Lesbian Community

Asheville, NC

April, 1990

TIME TO ACT ON CITY/COUNTY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION

reported by Lillian Powell

Last Month we reported that the Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Board of Commissioners are in the process of being educated about the importance of including "sexual orientation" in the proposed anti-discrimination resolution. Small groups of council members and commissioners are meeting on Monday evenings with members of the coalition sponsoring the resolution. Most of these five Commissioners and seven City Council members have little or no understanding of gay issues; worse, many have automatically taken negative positions because of culturally-based homophobia.

Your help is needed in this effort! Write or call the City Council members and the County Commissioners and give your input or set up a meeting. Urge them to support a comprehensive non-discrimination resolution without any deletions. Remind the City Council members (not the Commissioners!) that, when polled by Asheville Citizens for Responsive Government before the election last November, they stated that they would support a non-discrimination resolution of this kind. Tell the Council members and the Commissioners that you'll be looking to see how they vote.

This is an important political happening in your city and county. Participate and reap the benefits of non-discrimination! You do not have to identify yourself as a gay man or lesbian when you call or write. It would be great if all of us could, but it is not essential. This resolution is for all people.

Before you call, make out a list of the names of each person you will be calling, and leave space to record their responses. Then you can document contacts and responses from your elected officials. It would be very helpful if you could let the Coalition know your results. Contact: Coalition for Progressive Action, 658-0703, c/o PO Box 197, Asheville, NC 28802.

City Council Members: Ken Michalove, Mayor; Bill Moore, Vice-Mayor; Wilhelmina Bratton; Eugene Ellison; William Estes; Mary Lloyd Frank; and Norma Price. (more, next page...)

PROPOSED NON-DISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION ASHEVILLE/BUNCOMBE COUNTY

1. That a Public Policy is hereby adopted on behalf of, and to the mutual benefit of the Citizens of Asheville/Buncombe County affirming our resolve to create a community in which the dignity of each individual is respected, and opportunities are afforded in employment, housing, access to goods, services, public places and community activities by public and private providers without regard to race, color, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, physical attributes (natural physical characteristics), familial status (families with children), matriculation (student status), religious beliefs, or handicapping condition.
2. That to give effect to, and facilitate the implementation of the stated Public Policy the Asheville-Buncombe Community Relations Council is hereby authorized and directed to act in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 75-27, Minute Book 40, Page 146 (1975), City of Asheville, upon complaints submitted alleging actions or occurrences which contravene the Public Policy.