

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6898

AN ORDINANCE authorizing edits to the Bellevue City Code to make it gender neutral and amending Section 1.04.020 of the Bellevue City Code to update the grammatical interpretation rule regarding references to gender.

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue has a long history of promoting inclusiveness and non-discrimination but the Bellevue City Code has outdated and unnecessary references to gender and gendered terms;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has long required all state statutes and resolutions be written in gender-neutral terms unless a specification of gender is intended;

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.500 authorizes the codification of ordinances, including but not limited to “[e]diting ordinances to the extent deemed necessary or desirable, for the purpose of modernizing and clarifying the language of such ordinance, but without changing the meaning of any such ordinance]”;

WHEREAS, the City Council desires the Bellevue City Code be made gender neutral so long as such edits do not change the meaning of any code provision and amend Section 1.04.020 to update the grammatical interpretation rule regarding references to gender; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. City staff is authorized to edit the Bellevue City Code to make it gender neutral, so long as such edits do not change the meaning of the code provision.

Section 2. Section 1.04.020 of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Grammatical interpretation. The following grammatical rules shall apply in the ordinances of the city:

- A. Gender. Gender-neutral pronouns include all genders. Gendered pronouns shall refer to all genders unless otherwise specified.
- B. Singular and Plural. The singular number includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

C. Tenses. Words used in the present tense include the past and the future tenses and vice versa, unless manifestly inapplicable.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage and legal publication.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2026
and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

(SEAL)

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Trisna Tanus, City Attorney

Kathleen Kline, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

Published _____