

DATE: June 19, 2017

TO: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

FROM: Patrick Arpin, Assistant Chief of Police, Police Department

SUBJECT: Item # _____

Although Bellevue enjoys a low rate of violent crime, discrimination and crime related to the City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) residents and visitors still occur. The Bellevue Police Department promotes the City's vision of welcoming the world with diversity as our strength and is committed to the safety of all LGBTQ residents and visitors. In May 2015, the Seattle Police Department developed and incorporated an initiative called SAFE PLACE "to address numerous LGBTQ community issues and concerns that have traditionally impacted law enforcement and the communities they serve through the United States for many generations". They have encouraged other Law Enforcement agencies to do the same, and the Bellevue Police Department and our LGBTQI Council would like to adopt the program as our own.

BPD Safe Place creates safe locations for individuals to go to if they feel they have been a victim of anti-LGBTQ crimes. Signage is displayed by participating community members, businesses, schools and organizations that work closely with the Bellevue Police Department in an effort to reduce anti-LGBTQ crimes, reduce LGBTQ student bullying and encourage the reporting of LGBTQ crimes. These are also locations supporting safe and secure places for victims of anti-LGBTQ related crimes and harassment. Calling 911 and waiting for police to respond is essential for holding suspects accountable and reducing hate crimes and harassment in general. In addition to the 911 police response to these incidents, the Police Department has an LGBTQ liaison officer and an advisory council who promote partnership efforts between the Police Department and LGBTQ community. The Police Department has established a web page that will promote this program and provide additional resources for the LGBTQ community.

The mission of the BPD SAFE PLACE program is to provide the LGBTQ community with signage and resources that will provide easily accessible safety information. BPD SAFE PLACE is designed to further enhance the relationship between the Bellevue Police Department, the LGBTQ community, and local businesses by providing BPD SAFE PLACE decals and signage to local businesses and organizations and encouraging those entities to clearly post them at the entrances to their premises. They serve as a

symbol of safety for the victims of LGBTQ crime and a warning to those who commit those crimes.

For participants in the program, the displaying of the BPD SAFE PLACE symbol at their premises carries some important responsibilities that will greatly assist in protecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) victims of crime.

These LGBTQ victims will recognize the BPD SAFE PLACE symbol of safety that indicates that the business, organization, school or premise is willing to assist and protect them. The Bellevue Police Department would provide instruction to staff, employees, supervisors, managers, teachers, volunteers, counselors and/or students, etc. of the following protocol:

1. The BPD SAFE PLACE decal would be placed outside the front entrance of the establishment, building, room, etc. (approx. 3-5 feet high, if possible). If there is no glass at the front entrance, the BPD SAFE PLACE poster can be placed conspicuously inside the location.
2. Allowing these victims to enter and remain at the location until Bellevue Police arrive.
3. Calling or assisting these victims with calling 911.

There is minimal cost associated with this program, limited to BPD SAFE PLACE materials that will be provided to program participants and staff time to do the initial training. The webpage is ready to go live. Our plan is to launch the program starting June 12th through our regular media outlets in coordination with our City PIO. Questions on the program can be routed to Assistant Chief Patrick Arpin or Officer Molly McCormack.