

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6520

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 3.79 of the Bellevue City Code (Human Resources Code); amending Subsection 3.79.040(R) and Subsection 3.79.135(B); to (1) align the definition of “domestic partner” with the eligibility requirements under State law and (2) establish consistent requirements for declarations of marriage and domestic partnerships.

Whereas, in 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 5336, creating a state domestic partnership registry, establishing eligibility requirements to enter into a state registered domestic partnership, and extending certain rights reserved for spouses to state registered domestic partners, including same-sex couples, who were not permitted by law to marry at that time;

Whereas, after the State law establishing domestic partnerships was passed, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 5744, which amended the Bellevue City Code to add a definition of “domestic partner,” amended the definition of “immediate family” to provide certain benefits for employees’ domestic partners and their dependents, and added a new section to the Bellevue City Code to provide for declarations of marriage and domestic partnership; and

Whereas, in 2012 Washington State voters passed Referendum 74, which allowed same sex couples to marry, automatically converted domestic partnerships where neither party was at least 62 years old to a marriage, and narrowed the definition of a state registered domestic partnership to require that couples have at least one individual who is 62 years of age or older;

Whereas, since both same and opposite sex couples are now allowed to marry under State law, the policy interest in maintaining a broad definition of “domestic partner” in the City code to provide equality for same-sex couples is now addressed by State law; and

Whereas, the standardization of documentation required to verify eligibility for City-provided benefits for domestic partners will enable the City to timely and effectively administer benefits plans in a manner that reduces the potential for error and/or fraud and is consistent with the City’s core value of stewardship; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. The Human Resources Code, Subsection 3.79.040(R) is amended to read as follows:

R. "Domestic partner" means an employee's state registered domestic partner under Chapter 26.60 RCW as now or hereafter amended.

Section 2: Human Resources Code Subsection 3.79.135(B) is amended to read as follows:

B. *Declaration of Domestic Partnership.* The employee and domestic partner shall be required to sign a declaration of domestic partnership under penalty of perjury that:

1. They are legally registered by the State of Washington as domestic partners;
2. The employee shall notify human resources within 30 days of the termination of the domestic partnership;
3. They understand the consequences for intentional false or misleading statements on the declaration including employee discipline up to and including termination, loss of domestic partner benefits and financial reimbursement for ineligible benefits provided; and
4. They have (and if requested can provide) proof of state registered domestic partnership.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
and signed in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2020.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynne Robinson, Mayor

Approved as to form:  
Kathryn L. Gerla, City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Lin, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

Published \_\_\_\_\_