



Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council HB 40 – Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings – Gender-Inclusive Signage Support

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Wilson, members of the House Economic Matters Committee, Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee for the opportunity to share the City's comments on HB 40. We are thankful to Delegate Solomon for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council strongly support HB 40 and its goal to make the use of single-occupancy public restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation more inclusive by requiring gender-neutral signage. **The City of Rockville has a long history of converting single-use bathrooms to be all gender.** The legislation also aligns with the Mayor and Council's vision to provide a welcoming and socially-equitable community for all. HB 40 would also benefit residents by facilitating access for parents and family members caring for a child that is a different gender.

Rockville's support and advocacy for its tapestry of race, religion, creed, ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientation, and culture will always be a central pillar of the City's commitment to its community. Rockville is respectful to different cultures and beliefs, and is a city committed to creating a welcoming community for all backgrounds. Since the summer of 2020, the City has embarked on a journey to become a more equitable community, including the establishment in FY22 of a Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI) team to implement the Mayor and Council priorities.

On June 27, 2022, the Mayor and Council adopted a Resolution, which proclaimed that the City staff responsible for the design, construction, renovation, and maintenance of City-owned facilities, will make every effort to incorporate gender-neutral restrooms whenever constructing or renovating public restrooms in a City-owned facility. Several Rockville facilities already have single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms and signage, including City Hall, Lincoln Park Community Center, Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. **The City of Rockville is also working to make the City's bathrooms baby-friendly, by installing diaper changing stations.**

We are very pleased to endorse State legislation, such as HB 40, that aligns with Rockville's priorities in support of inclusion and access for all. The City urges the House Economic Matters Committee as well as the House Health and Government Operations Committee to provide HB 40 with a favorable report.