FAIR EMPLOYMENT RESOLUTION

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CONTENT CREATOR

The A-State Young Democrats held a meeting Jan. 28 in which Yesenia Hernandez and Ryan Carter detailed a proposed "Fair Employment Resolution" which would prevent LGBTQ+ people who work for the city of Jonesboro from being discriminated against for their sexual orientation or gender identity. Later, they amended the proposed resolution to include veteran status. Both of these things, they assure, are perfectly legal when applied to city employees.

This resolution arose from the HRC's "Municipal Equality Index," which rates 506 cities on their inclusivity and equality on a scale of 0 to 100. While rating abstract concepts on a number scale isn't a particularly solid way to measure "equality," the difference between, say, a 66 and a 0 is stark.

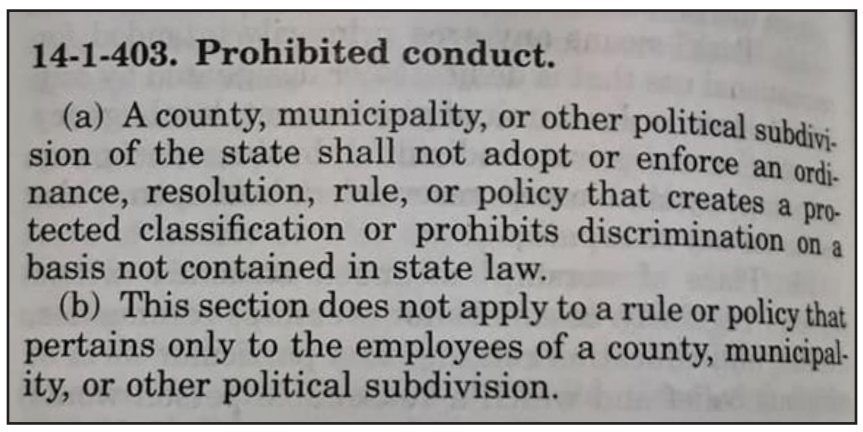
In this instance, Little Rock is the 66, and Jonesboro is the 0.

Jonesboro is in a unique position, being one of only fourteen cities out of the 506 that scored a zero. With this change, Hernandez says Jonesboro will jump to fourteen points (a number that, while not great, is certainly better than a zero).

This resolution's lineage goes back to the last time that something similar was proposed - back in 2015. The organizers insist that it's different now, however: they are going through the proper channels, and they claim to have the support of several important members of the community.

Carter and Hernandez plan to blitz this resolution: in about two weeks' time, the resolution will either have passed or failed. It will be turned in to the city clerk on Feb. 10, there will be a rally from noon to 2 p.m. at the Craighead County Courthouse on Feb. 15 and it will go to the Jonesboro City Council on the 18th if Mayor Harold Perrin decides to put it on the agenda.

Regardless of whether the resolution passes or not, this quick and coordinated push is impressive. At this pace, the Fair Employment Resolution might not even be the biggest success of the year for Jonesboro's LGBTQ+ community.



14-1-403. Prohibited conduct.

(a) A county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state shall not adopt or enforce an ordinance, resolution, rule, or policy that creates a protected classification or prohibits discrimination on a basis not contained in state law.

(b) This section does not apply to a rule or policy that pertains only to the employees of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YESENIA HERNANDEZ

The section above has been cited from the "Handbook for Arkansas Municipal Officials" in regards to the legality of the Fair Employment Resolution. However, (b) shows that it is legal.

HistoryMakers Digital Archive Contest

Contribution by Shanita Sanders

Attention A-State students! Are you interested in learning more about African-American history while showcasing your talent? If so, you should enter this year's HistoryMakers Digital Archive Contest! For this year's Black History Month celebration at A-State, we are celebrating and discussing the Pan-African movement and the history of Pan-Africanism.

Given that our theme covers a broad array of historical figures and global experiences, this is the perfect opportunity to showcase the diverse aspects of this cultural movement across three artistic and expressive platforms while aiding in enhancing the month-long celebration at the university and within the local community.

The 2020 HistoryMakers Digital Archives Contest is open to all creators of the arts from written art and spoken word to creative and artistic works. In order to submit a piece, you are encouraged to view a HistoryMaker from the archives database under the subject Pan-African or Pan-Africanism and base your entry on the themes or ideology of the presented clip or HistoryMaker.

To access the site, you will go to the www.astate.edu website. Click on the Library tab at the top of the page, search the Library Databases and select T or type in The HistoryMakers and begin your creative expression and exploration from there.

Writers! You are encouraged to write a 500- to 700-word essay on Pan-African Influence or Pan-Africanism and its movement. The Winning written works will be featured by "The Herald" during Black History Month.

Spoken Word Artists! You are encouraged to create a 1- to 2-minute spoken word performance on the subject of Pan-Africanism or Pan-African influence! The winning performance pieces will be recorded and featured on the Multicultural Instagram page during BHM.

Artists! You are encouraged to create an artwork under any of the following mediums, drawing, sculpture, painting or graphic screen-printing. The winning artworks will be showcased during the culminating BHM event "EVOLVE" on Feb. 29.

The deadline for all works is Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. For more information, feel free to reach out to The HistoryMakers Student Brand Ambassador Shanita Sanders at shanita.sanders@smail.astate.edu or via phone at 870-680-4052 ext. 2836.



Interested in reporting? Join us every Monday at 5 p.m. in room 224 in the Communications Building.