



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

EXECUTIVE ORDER

NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL BAN TO NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has a strong history of protecting the civil rights and liberties of its citizens and is fully committed to promoting equal treatment and inclusion of individuals in our community; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016, the State of North Carolina enacted H.B. 2, legislation entitled An Act to Provide for Single-Sex Multiple Occupancy Bathroom and Changing Facilities in Schools and Public Agencies and to Create Statewide Consistency in Regulation of Employment and Public Accommodations; and

WHEREAS, this action by the State of North Carolina was a response to an action by the City of Charlotte intended to promote equal treatment and inclusion for residents of that community; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 2 revoked civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community in the State of North Carolina by preempting any local government ordinance or policy regulating discriminatory practices in employment, by not including sexual orientation and gender identity in its list of protected characteristics, and by requiring public agencies to allow use of multiple occupancy bathroom or changing facilities only based on biological sex as noted on a birth certificate; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2017, in H.B. 142, the State of North Carolina amended the above-referenced act by deleting the bathroom provision of the law, but prohibiting any local government, state agency, or public university from adopting a policy that ensures transgender people have access to restrooms consistent with their gender identity and from adopting any protection for LGBTQ people in private employment or public accommodations until 2020; and

WHEREAS, rather than truly repealing the discriminatory H.B. 2, North Carolina continues to deny residents of and visitors to North Carolina fundamental civil rights and even prevents local communities from enacting such protections for the next three years; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to protect Burlington's officials and employees from discrimination when they are acting in their official capacities; and

WHEREAS, protecting the City from inadvertently financing discrimination against individuals because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected characteristics is a compelling governmental interest; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2016, Governor Peter Shumlin of Vermont banned official state travel to North Carolina in response to H.B. 2, and because the purported repeal of H.B. 2 does not address the underlying concerns about discrimination, the City intends to continue to observe that ban; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington supports the efforts of the City of Charlotte to promote equal treatment and inclusion and specifically exempts that City from this executive order;

NOW, THEREFORE, exercising the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Burlington by Title V, Article 36, Section 116 of the Charter of the City of Burlington, I, Miro Weinberger, hereby issue the following executive order, effective immediately

Until further notice, no official City travel shall occur to the state of North Carolina (except to the City of Charlotte), unless it is necessary to meet prior contractual obligations or is otherwise deemed essential for conducting City business. Any City official seeking a determination of whether travel is essential should contact my Chief of Staff, and my decision on the necessity of such travel shall be final.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Weinberger", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Hon. Mayor Miro Weinberger