

September 19, 2017

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
tultalk@hughes.net

Robert F. Tulloch
7629 Coon Hill Rd
Munith, MI 49259

Re: Your Freedom of Information Act Request
Councilmember Dobies' Emails (1/1/2017 through 7/1/2017)
Received: July 17, 2017

Dear Mr. Tulloch:

Attached is a copy of the letter that was attached to an email sent by Mr. Dobies to Dr. Arbulu on August 8, 2017.

Sincerely,



Bethany M. Vujnov
City Attorney

BMV/dn
Att.

August 8, 2017

Michigan Civil Rights Commission
Capital Tower Building
110 W. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input into the decision before the Michigan Civil Rights Commission as to whether sex discrimination language in the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act should also guarantee long-sought protections for gay and transgender residents. I humbly request that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission act to issue an interpretative statement finding this to be the case.

It's unacceptable that in 2017 here in Michigan, hardworking employees can be fired from their jobs, residents can be refused public accommodations, and families can be evicted from, or refused, housing just because they happen to be a member of the LGBT community. For the past five years, I've led our city in advancing a Non-Discrimination Ordinance to provide protections against such discrimination in the City of Jackson.

After a twenty-year journey since first being proposed, this February the Jackson City Council finally passed a Non-Discrimination Ordinance in front of an audience of over seven hundred residents, becoming the 42nd community in Michigan to do so. The vote was a statement of tolerance and inclusion by city leaders that has led to renewed civic vitality and increased public appreciation for diversity within our community: in the months since, we opened our first Jackson Pride Center - a safe place for LGBT teens to meet - and hosted our first Jackson Pride Festival.

Jackson leaders passed this ordinance because prohibiting discrimination against our LGBT friends and neighbors creates a fair and just society. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission possesses the power to extend this vision to LGBT individuals across Michigan not currently protected under local ordinance.

You have the power to ensure that our children inherit a more tolerant, inclusive state. Please use it.

Sincerely,



Derek J. Dobies
Vice Mayor