



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EQUALITY ILLINOIS APPLAUDS CITY FOR RETAINING LGBT TITLE FOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest organization advocating for LGBT equality, applauds the City of Chicago for reconsidering its plan to name the newly-created committee charged with addressing LGBT issues the *Advisory Council on Gender and Sexuality*. Equality Illinois, as part of the Chicago LGBT Citywide Coalition, led advocacy efforts to rename the committee the *Advisory Council on Gender and LGBT Issues*.

“The term ‘sexuality’ was used decades ago to gloss over LGBT issues without giving them the full weight and discussion they deserved,” Randy Hannig, Director of Public Policy, said. “As far as the LGBT community has come in our fight for full equality, we should not have to regress back to a time when the term ‘LGBT’ was looked upon with scrutiny and shame. We should be proud to include ‘LGBT’ in the name of this new advisory council.”

The Chicago LGBT Citywide Coalition planned advocacy efforts over the last three months to push for affirmative LGBT inclusion at all levels of city government. As a result of meetings with aldermen, outreach to Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega, and discussion of the coalition’s position statements, the Chicago City Council’s Committee on the Budget & Government Operations voted Monday to include the term “LGBT” in the name of the council that will deal with such issues.

In a letter addressed to Commissioner Noriega and Chicago aldermen dated November 4th, Equality Illinois stated, “By including ‘LGBT’ in the title of the new council, the mission of the council will be affirmatively inclusive and specific. Members of the general public know exactly what to expect when they hear about ‘LGBT issues,’ whereas the term ‘sexuality’ is extremely vague. Those who read about an upcoming meeting of the ‘LGBT Advisory Committee’ understand specifically what issues that council will be discussing.”

Equality Illinois urges its supporters to contact their aldermen and express their support for the appropriate naming and mission for this advisory council.

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Equality Illinois was founded in 1991 to secure, protect and defend full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. It is the state’s oldest and largest LGBT advocacy organization.

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