



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
LGBTQIA+ Commission

I am writing on behalf of the LGBTQIA+ Commission to express our strong support for the proposed Fair Housing Amendments to the Zoning code that aim to create a more inclusive definition of "family" and enhance options for supportive housing for unhoused individuals.

As a Commission committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of LGBTQIA+ individuals, we recognize the critical importance of inclusive housing policies. The current definition of "family" often excludes diverse configurations that reflect the realities of our communities, including chosen families, which are particularly significant for many LGBTQIA+ individuals who may face rejection from their biological families. By broadening this definition, we can ensure that people of all races, gender identities and sexualities feel recognized, supported, and able to access the housing resources they need.

Moreover, the emphasis on providing more supportive housing options for unhoused individuals aligns with our commitment to addressing the disproportionate rates of homelessness within the LGBTQIA+ community. Many individuals experience being unhoused not only due to economic factors but also as a result of discrimination and family rejection. Expanding access to supportive housing is essential for creating safe, stable, and affirming environments for those in need.

These proposed changes are a vital step toward fostering a society where everyone, regardless of their familial structure or circumstances, has access to safe and affordable housing. We urge you to prioritize the implementation of these changes, as they represent a significant move toward equity and accessibility in housing policy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to seeing these necessary changes enacted and remain committed to supporting efforts that uplift and empower all members of our community.