



# CITY of BEAVERTON

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO SANCTUARY AND WELCOMING**

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – The city’s Diversity Advisory Board and Human Rights Advisory Commission, along with the Human Rights Council of Washington County, issued a joint statement reaffirming a commitment to sanctuary and welcoming.

In the statement, the three boards note that “We believe that all individuals have a basic right to feel safe, be treated with respect and dignity, and have the opportunity to pursue a livelihood, family, safety and happiness, as enshrined in our Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Independent of immigration status, the rate of incidents in which people of color have been targeted by messages of hate and exclusion has spiked significantly over the past few years. We believe that this is in part a product of increased affirmation of hateful and anti-immigrant rhetoric based on myths. Individuals shouldn’t have to live in constant fear of disclosing their federal immigration status. Hard-working, contributing members of our community shouldn’t have to feel that they’re putting themselves and their families at risk by simply going about their daily lives.”

The complete statement is available at [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingBeaverton](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/WelcomingBeaverton).

The city’s Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) exists to advise the city on equity and inclusion strategies that strengthen connections among diverse communities living in Beaverton and with the city. The city’s Human Rights Advisory Commission (HRAC) was formed to promote harmonious relations within the city by enlisting the cooperation of various racial, religious, and nationality groups; business, community, labor, governmental, fraternal and benevolent associations; educational and other groups.

In January 2017, the Beaverton City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring Beaverton a sanctuary city. The resolution defines sanctuary city as a city that is committed to providing a safe community for individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, place of origin, or immigration status, and works to ensure that all members of the community are safe and can call for public safety assistance without fear of reprisal based solely on federal immigration status, in accordance with current Oregon law.

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