



Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Patricia Lally, Director

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Administrative Rules proposed for City of Seattle All-Gender Restroom Ordinance

Office for Civil Rights invites public comments until October 28

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) has proposed Administrative Rules for the new Seattle All-Gender Restroom Ordinance ([SMC 14.07](#)). Members of the public have until Thursday, October 22 to comment on the proposed rules. The full text of the rules is available at <http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/gender-justice-project/all-gender-restrooms>.

Please send comments to loren.othon@seattle.gov or in writing to:
Seattle Office for Civil Rights
810 Third Ave., Suite 750
Seattle, WA 98104-1627
Attn: All-Gender Restroom Rule Comment

You can also comment by calling 206-684-4528.

To develop the proposed rules, SOCR held two meetings with a group of stakeholders representing businesses and LGBT communities. Participants provided valuable perspectives on issues that both businesses and community members may face when the new law is implemented.

“I want to thank the businesses and LGBT community representatives who worked together to develop strategies for implementing this new law,” said Patricia Lally, director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, which is responsible for enforcing the ordinance. “I appreciate their efforts to provide equitable public facilities for people in Seattle.”

The draft rules clarify a number of issues raised by the All-Gender Restroom Ordinance, including:

- Providing proof of compliance;
- Ways to enforce the new ordinance; and
- Penalties for noncompliance.

Seattle's All-Gender Restroom Ordinance amends the Seattle Municipal Code to allow use of single occupant restrooms by any person, regardless of sex or gender identity, and to prevent those restrooms from being restricted to a specific sex or gender identity. Single occupant restroom facilities without appropriate signage already in place will require new signs to be posted. The measure, which goes into effect on March 9, 2016, applies to existing and newly-built City facilities, as well as stores, restaurants and other places of public accommodation in Seattle.

For more information about Seattle's All-Gender Restroom Ordinance, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/gender-justice-project/all-gender-restrooms> or call 206-684-4500. This information is available in other formats on request.

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