

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Huntington WV ponders sexual orientation protection for LGBT

Dear readers: It is my understanding that the city of Huntington West Virginia is contemplating the amendment of the city human rights ordinance to include sexual orientation as a protected class. It is my understanding that the Huntington West Virginia Human Relations commission will meet at Huntington city hall to discuss this on the 13th of this month. This follows on the tail of the city of Charleston West Virginia amending its ordinance to include sexual orientation in the Charleston West Virginia Ordinance. How can we expect progressive technology jobs to come to Huntington West Virginia with all the benefits that it entails, if we are not willing to adopt progressive laws that deal with modern reality. The leadership in Charleston West Virginia is smart enough to understand that this sexual orientation issue is not a matter of morality but rather a matter of economics. The LGBT community has a lot of money and clout. There is political warfare between the left and the right in this country. I see it in context of an up and down vertical economic model rather than a left and right horizontal model of moral perspectives and sentiments. Political Reality: There are gay people and members of the LGBT community in high positions in every large corp in the country who do not want anything to do with any local jurisdiction that does not think them worthy of equality under law. Consequently any corporation seeking to locate jobs in such a jurisdiction, would meet with extreme internal opposition from its gay management employees and gay stockholders. Many large fortune 500 corps have LGBT members on the board of directors who would be opposed to locating jobs here. There is an economic penalty to be paid by any jurisdiction practicing a regressive mindset against a group that has the economic and political clout to retaliate by sending business elsewhere. The religious fundamentalists have a large number of activists to oppose LGBT equality, however the gay community has its share of radicals too. Some of the most radical gay people are those locals living in fear in the closet. These people express their sentiments with their dollars. Case in Point: Remember what happened in the 80's, when Anita Bryant spread homophobic hate and the devastating impact that it had on the Florida citrus industry? The gay community nationwide boycotted the entire state of Florida. The case of Anita Bryant is extreme, but what it proves is that there is an economic penalty imposed on any jurisdiction that is perceived to be hateful to those of LGBT orientation. What was once seen as a sexual minority has now evolved into a "political camp" with its educated and influential members exercising influence over large amounts of assets and potential jobs that are needed in this locality. Anita Bryant's tirade was 25 years ago and the national LGBT community is now VERY much more economically empowered and influential than they were at that time. I am tired of my hometown of Huntington West Virginia paying the economic penalty for outdated mentality and regressive mindsets. All are welcome and all are equal in humanity in the real America beyond our municipal borders. Many of those potential investors out there who could potentially help to revive Huntington's economy are actually members of the LGBT community. That is why this alleged recent homophobic hate crime in Milton West Virginia is scary from an economic perspective as well as a criminal one. The first rule of economics is: Thou shalt not scare or provoke the potential investor. Nor shall you deny his equality or offend his boyfriend. The second rule of economics is: Money is green and people are not with the exception of days when Marshall University has a football game. Therefore a person's race, sex, or religion and sexual orientation are irrelevant to the color of their money. Due to the fact that the LGBT community travels on vacation 230% more than their hetero counterparts (more disposable income due to fewer children). The travel industry is well aware of the economic factors that I speak of. Those people and their money will not go where they are not equally protected and economic hostility is demonstrated by small minds between the ears of small minded short sighted leaders. As I said my perspective is one of economics and allegiance to the constitution. I absolutely believe in equality under the rule of law for all Americans as a matter of patriotism. It is my desire to uphold the full measure of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. One is obligated to support the full constitution of the United States in its entirety or reject it entirely as a measure of patriotism. It is an all or nothing proposition. A policy of LGBT exclusion is tantamount to a regressive policy of economic isolation in a city where the LGBT community is not protected. It seems that the "White Only" signs of forty years ago have given way to "Straight Only" signs in this town. This merely tells outsiders that we believe ourselves to be a superior caste in what is in essence a classless society by constitutional mandate. Stephanie Heck of Huntington West Virginia

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Huntington WV at 19:23

Right on!
Anonymous on Feb 27 2008, 22:06