



November 29, 2022

Statement from the Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regarding the Colorado Springs Club Q Shooting

We, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, again must address deadly violence targeting marginalized people. On Saturday, November 19, a gunman killed 5 and injured at least 17, the latest violence perpetrated against LGBTQIA+ people, whose generational history has been marked with bloodshed. We first must acknowledge the heartbreak, grieving, suffering, and trauma experienced by our Washington County employees and our community at large. It is not a coincidence that this unconscionable violence occurred at a time where communities around the world were honoring the Transgender Day of Awareness, including here in Washington County.

We also need to speak to the fact that much of the misinformation and hate aimed at the LGBTQIA+ people come from elected officials. Protections for LGBTQIA+ people are being rolled back and hateful policies are being passed by legislative bodies across the country. The Washington County Board of Commissioners condemns hateful rhetoric and violence in all its forms. We care about and value our entire community and we grieve with you. We appreciate you, we want you here, and we are with you.

During this time of great pain, we want to ensure LGBTQIA+ employees and community members know about all the healing resources available:

1. There is a non-emergency Bias Response Hotline: Whether it happened to you or to someone else, the Oregon Department of Justice can help track hate and bias incidents. Trauma-informed operators are standing by 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time, Monday - Friday. Interpreters are available in over 240 languages. If calling after hours, leave a message and they will return your call. 1-844-924-BIAS (1-844-924-2427) <https://StandAgainstHate.oregon.gov>
2. For our LGBTQIA+ individuals in our community contact the Trevor Project at <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/> or 1-866-488-7386; they have robust support services, counseling services, and resources for allyship.
3. For our Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) there are Mental Health Resources to help: For immediate text support, reach out to Crisis Text Line by texting COALITION to 741741 to connect with a crisis counselor for free 24/7.

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4. For WA County employees, you have the Employee Assistance Program. Washington County employees may engage services free of charge from UpriseHealth, the County's new Employee Assistance provider. Call 1-866-750-1327 or visit www.uprisehealth.com
5. For every community member, there is a Washington County Crisis Line: If you are having thoughts of suicide, feel hopeless or are feeling like you cannot cope right now, please call 503-291-9111.

Washington County, and its board of commissioners is proud of its employees; be it during a global pandemic, wildfires, heat domes, or ice storms, our team never stops delivering its essential services to our community. We persevere, we keep moving forward, and we support each other in our greatest needs and traumas. Washington County is resilient, and we thank all who serve here, work here, and call this wonderful community home.

Kathryn Harrington

Chair, Washington County Board of Commissioners

Nafisa Fai

Washington County District 1 Commissioner

Pamela Treece

Washington County District 2 Commissioner

Roy Rogers

Washington County District 3 Commissioner

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