

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Rebecca Erickson &
Poulsbo City Council



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 19, 2023

City of Poulsbo, Mayor's Office
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Poulsbo Mayor and City Council Renounce and Condemn Homophobic Speech

The Mayor and the Council of the City of Poulsbo unequivocally renounce and condemn the homophobic hate speech that has recently appeared in our public spaces.

Bigotry and intolerance are not welcome here. It is deeply upsetting that this person feels empowered to inflict their own fear and prejudice on our town. While this individual's recent actions are protected under the First Amendment and freedom of speech, law enforcement is aware of their repeated presence and is prepared to act should a law be violated. The dramatically increased risk that LGBTQ+ people face as victims of violent crime means that the distance between pernicious hate speech and physical violence is dangerously small.

According to the Department of Justice in a study published June 2022+:

- The rate of violent victimization of lesbian or gay persons (43.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 16 or older) was more than two times the rate for straight persons (19.0 per 1,000).
- The rate of violent victimization against transgender persons (51.5 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 16 or older) was 2.5 times the rate among cisgender persons (20.5 per 1,000).

We welcome, support, and affirm our LGBTQ+ friends, neighbors, visitors, and allies. You are loved, and we want you to not only feel safe in Poulsbo, but to be safe. The fact that you might not feel safe here is truly devastating and something we must all work diligently to fix. The City of Poulsbo would like to collaborate with local business owners on initiatives that further this effort but will be taking steps independently in the meantime.

We encourage the community of Poulsbo to continue showing up in support of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and visitors, demonstrating the abundance of strength and love that makes this place special.

With Pride,

Mayor Becky Erickson & Councilmembers,

Britt Livdahl
Connie Lord
Jeff McGinty
Gary McVey
David Musgrove
Andrew Phillips
Ed Stern

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