

From: City of Westminster Inclusivity Board

Date: December 2022

### **Official Statement Regarding Club Q and Statement of Solidarity for LGBTQIA+**

We, as the Inclusivity Board of the City of Westminster, want to ensure that those in our community who were directly and/or inherently impacted by the atrocious Colorado Springs violence against our LGBTQIA+ community are acknowledged. For some of our Westminster community members who identify as LGBTQIA+, the incident at Club Q is a grim reminder that the world continues to be an unsafe place for them. According to a 2020 study done by the UCLA School of Law, LGBTQIA+ persons are four times more likely to fall victim to a violent crime than non-LGBTQIA+ persons (<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-lgbt-violence-press-release/>). Increasingly, anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiments have been spewed from varying policy-makers, elected officials, and those who hold positions in authority, not only nationally but even in the great state of Colorado, which undoubtedly yields a high correlation to escalating attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/21/nyregion/new-york-lgbtq-colorado-shooting.html>). We cannot close our eyes to these atrocities. We can no longer choose to say nothing in the face of a pandemic of hate that affects many, including those who live and/or work in the City of Westminster. To those in our community who are afraid, or who were personally affected by the most recent, but sadly, not isolated, bout of violence targeting LGBTQIA+ persons, please know this: we see you. We grieve with you. And we will stand for, and with, you. Always.

As the Inclusivity Board of the City of Westminster, we continue to stand in solidarity against all forms of hatred and oppression. We believe that all residents, guests, and businesses of Westminster are entitled to live free of intimidation, threat, and fear. As such, we stand united with our friends, family and neighbors targeted or harmed by this hateful incident. As the Inclusivity Board of the City of Westminster, we pledge to undertake any action within our power as a city board and as individuals to eliminate such evils such as homophobia in our community. We commit ourselves to the residents, guests, and businesses of the City of Westminster to ensure that our community is a beacon of light where diversity is celebrated and where all are treated with equality and dignity. We call upon all city

leaders and organizations to unabashedly and clearly denounce the type of hatred that targets and continues to plague members of our LBGTQIA+ community.

For those wondering what they can do to support those impacted at Club Q, there is a [GoFundMe](#) as well as the [Colorado Healing Fund](#) that will directly support the survivors of Club Q.

For those who are looking for vigils in Colorado, The Center on Colfax has a list [here](#).

LGBTQ Colorado has mental health resources listed [here](#).

On Behalf of the Inclusivity Board of the City of Westminster,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Davis".

Justin Davis, Ph.D. - Chair

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE I.B.:** <https://www.cityofwestminster.us/inclusivity>