



Transgender
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Date: October 23, 2019

Re: Immediate removal of Kendrick El from the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission

Honorable Mayor Dwyer and City Council Members,

Kendrick El's recent homophobic and transphobic comments made on social media and to the press points to why Virginia Beach has such a mediocre rating of 50 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipality Equality Index when cities like Richmond have a score of 94 and Alexandria scored 84. His comments can be construed as the city leadership's public position on equality or, at least, El's comments point to a lack of vetting for those appointed to the city's HRC and a lack of LGBT cultural competency training for all HRC members.

El's outdated, ignorant, and hateful views are unacceptable and create fear in the Transgender community at a time when trans women of color are being murdered at an alarming rate, and trans people are not protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in Virginia. At the end of the day, El's comments negate everything Virginia Beach is trying to achieve as a safe and welcoming place to live and work.

It is a sad day when a member of the HRC spews hatred towards the LGBT Community. His ignorance of the fact that the outdated practice of conversion therapy is extremely harmful, his belief that homosexuality and being Transgender are mental illnesses, and his paranoia surrounding Transgender people using the appropriate bath room are reasons why El should no longer be a member of the HRC. If El is not removed, his continuing presence will be a stain on Virginia Beach's reputation as a vibrant and progressive place to work and live.

El should be immediately terminated from his position on the Human Rights Commission.

Sincerely,
De Sube
Board of Directors

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