FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of

West Hollywood

**City of West Hollywood’s Ordinance on**

**Gender-Neutral Restrooms Takes Effect**

*West Hollywood City Council Voted Unanimously to*

*Approve Item in June 2014; Ordinance Takes Effect This Month*

*All Single-Stall Restrooms in Businesses and Public Places in
West Hollywood are Now Required to be Gender-Neutral*

**WEST HOLLYWOOD, January 12, 2015 –** The City of West Hollywood is strongly committed to creating a safe and accessible environment for all people. The West Hollywood City Council, at its regular meeting on June 23, 2014, passed an ordinance to require that all single-stall restrooms in businesses and places of public accommodation be gender-neutral. The ordinance takes effect on Thursday, January 15, 2015 — all single-stall restrooms in businesses and public places in the City of West Hollywood will now be required to be gender-neutral. The ordinance has no impact on multiple-stall restrooms in the City.

Gender-specific restrooms can be unwelcoming and potentially unsafe for many people whose gender identity falls outside of traditional gender norms. Shifting from gender-specific single-stall restrooms to gender-neutral ones is a simple and low-cost way to help ensure that facilities in the City of West Hollywood are welcoming and open to all people, regardless of the way one presents or identifies their gender identity.

The new ordinance provides a direct benefit to a number of different users including transgender and gender non-conforming people, people with disabilities or with personal attendants, people with children of a different gender, and to the many people who have waited in line for a gender-specific restroom when a restroom for a gender for which they don’t identify remained empty.

The ordinance applies to existing and future single-stall restrooms — defined as intended for use by one person at a time — in food and commercial establishments, retail locations, and City facilities. Existing businesses are afforded a 60-day period in order to make necessary changes to comply with the ordinance; new businesses are required to comply immediately.

In 2006, Washington DC's Office of Human Rights instituted a similar law that requires every single stall public restroom in the District of Columbia to be gender-neutral. In 2013, the City of Philadelphia passed a law requiring new or renovated city-owned buildings to include gender-neutral bathrooms.

For more information about the City of West Hollywood’s Ordinance on

Gender-Neutral Restrooms, please contact the City’s Department of Public Works at (323) 848-6375. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323) 848-6496.

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