

O-20-15

Fair Housing in the City of Annapolis – Protected Classes

Staff Report

The purpose of this legislation is to bring the Annapolis City Code into compliance with the Maryland State Code concerning Fair Housing laws. This legislation will add “gender identity” to the protected classes set forth in Chapter 11.32 of the Code of the City of Annapolis governing Fair Housing.

While the legislation does not intend to craft a specific definitions for that term, it may be helpful to review their meaning in determining whether to expand the protected classes identified in the City of Annapolis Fair Housing laws.

There is no definition of “Gender Identity” in the 1981 Webster’s Third New International Dictionary so we look to an alternative source for the modern day interpretation of that term: “gender identity” refers to an individual’s innate, deeply felt psychological identification as a man, woman or some other gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth (e.g., the sex listed on their birth certificate).” The Human Rights Campaign. <http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-terminology-and-definitions>