



# ATL LGBTQ

**ONE ATLANTA:**  
**Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**  
*LGBTQ Affairs*

**Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board**  
**City of Atlanta, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Atlanta City Hall**  
Old Council Chambers  
55 Trinity Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Composed of citywide leaders and advocates, the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Mayor that help shape the City's policies and engagements with Atlanta's LGBTQ communities and serve as a bridge between City Hall and LGBTQ residents.

**Attendees, City of Atlanta Staff:**

**Bill Hawthorne**, Chief Equity Officer, One Atlanta: Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

**Reese McCranie**, Deputy Chief Equity Officer, One Atlanta: Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

**Malik Brown**, LGBTQ Affairs Coordinator, One Atlanta: Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

**Javier Brown**, Intergovernmental Affairs, Mayor's Office

**SPO Eric King**, LGBTQ Liaison, Atlanta Police Department

**Anaré Holmes**, LGBTQ Liaison, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department

**Attendees, City of Atlanta Partners:**

**Alix Janke LMSW**, Inspiritus

**Melanie Harrell**, Partners for Home

**Amber Austin**, Partners for Home

**Attendees, Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board Members:**

**Bishop O.C. Allen**, Founder, Vision Church Atlanta

**Kia Barnes**, Community Organizer

**State Representative Park Cannon**, GA House District 58

**Gabrielle Claiborne**, Co-Founder, Transformation Journeys Worldwide

**Lisa Cunningham**, CEO, Atlanta Film Partners

**Jamie Ferguson**, Executive Director, Atlanta Pride

**Jeff Graham**, Executive Director, Georgia Equality

**Roshelle Darlene Hudson**, MSW, Co-Founder, Annual Rustin/Lorde Breakfast

**Rabbi Joshua Lesser**, Founder, Southern Jewish Resource Network (SOJOURN)

**Daniel Newman**, Actor, The Walking Dead

**Kirk Rich**, Principal, Avison Young

**Ryan Roemer**, Founding Executive Director, LGBT Institute

**Jonathan Russell**, Director of Development, Woodruff Health Sciences Center

**Brigid Scarbrough**, National Board of Governors, Human Rights Campaign

**Melissa Scott**, Owner, Soul Bar at Pals Lounge

**Fred Smith**, Atlanta Leadership Circle, Lambda Legal

**Rickie Smith**, President, In the Life Atlanta

**Pam Stewart**, Chair of the Board of Directors, GLAAD

**Feroza Syed**, Trans Activist

**Craig Washington**, Co-Founder, Southern Unity Movement

**Agenda:**

**I. Welcome Remarks & Updates**, Kirk Rich & Pam Stewart, Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board Co-Chairs

**II. Relevant Updates from City of Atlanta Staff & Key Partners:**

**Reese McCranie, Deputy Chief Equity Officer**

- **Mayor & City's Opposition to Conversion Therapy**

- i. On Monday, April 15, 2019 Mayor Bottoms introduced a resolution that calls on the State of Georgia to ban conversion therapy. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Atlanta City Council.

- **HIV-Related Updates / PrEP Expansion Project**

- i. The PrEP Expansion Project that was formally recommended by the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board was approved by the Mayor. It is on track to be legislatively introduced at the next Atlanta City Council meeting in early May.

- ii. The City of Atlanta is working on a partnership with the Elton John AIDS Foundation. More details to come.

- iii. The City of Atlanta has partnered with an Atlanta-based non-profit named **Above the Status Quo** (ASQ) to increase the amount of HIV testing at the Atlanta University Center (AUC) and on the Westside of Atlanta.

- iv. Appointing a Chief Health Officer is still a priority of the administration. Significant process has been made.

- **LGBTQ Owned/Certified Businesses**

- i. There is an internal, exploratory working group of Mayor's Office staff, members of the City of Atlanta Law Department and the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board working to examine the possibility of adding LGBTQ Business Enterprises (LGBTQBE) to the City's Minority Business Enterprise classification.

- **ATL Counts: 2020 Census**

- i. The Mayor and the City of Atlanta officially kicked off their 2020 census efforts on April 1st. The efforts are named ATL Counts: 2020 Census. In addition to full time staff and federal & regional partnerships, the Mayor formed a diverse Complete Count committee to ensure that minority and hard-to-count populations are counted. Jeff Graham, from the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board is a member of the committee, as well as several openly LGBTQ people.

## **Malik Brown, LGBTQ Affairs Coordinator**

- **Drag Queen Story Hour**

- i. In response to the news that Atlanta drag queen, Miss Terra Cotta Sugar Baker, was not allowed to host her Drag Queen Story Hour at a local library – Mayor Bottoms invited her, via tweet, to host an event at City Hall. Staff is working to plan a **Drag Queen Story Hour** event in June, to coincide with National Pride Month and the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. An invite will be sent to members of the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Board to join an ad-hoc working group for the planning of the event. This is not a requirement, but board members are invited to attend as their schedules allow.

- **LGBTQ Annual Report**

- i. Alpha Business Images (ABI) was inspired and impressed with the LGBTQ-related work of Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, City of Atlanta staff and the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Board – they offered their services, pro-bono, to produce the City’s first-ever LGBTQ report. This report will encompass LGBTQ related work between January 2018 through May 2019, with a targeted June digital release. This will be a collaborative effort, with lots of involvement with the members of the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Board. This report will be visually appealing and informative with a storytelling style on our work thus far.

- **Stonewall Month**

- i. The City will recognize the anniversary of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn again. There will be an event geared towards employees and advisory board members.
- ii. Staff is looking to highlight 50 key figures in the LGBTQ civil rights movement. Will work with the LGBTQ Advisory Board on final list.

- **Mayor’s Georgia Voice Interview**

- i. Mayor Bottoms was participating in an interview with the Georgia Voice during the time of the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Board meeting. Staff will send out the interview as soon as it’s released.

## **Anaré Holmes, Atlanta Fire Rescue Department LGBTQ Liaison**

- **Departmental Update**

- i. AFRD LGBTQ Liaisons are working with AFRD senior leadership to schedule next round of LGBTQ cultural competency trainings for City of Atlanta firefighters and staff.

- **Volunteer Opportunity**

- i. Following the donation from the City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation and Home Depot of \$3,000 to ZAMI NOBLA (National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging) to install an accessibility ramp at a local home, housing two aging lesbian elders - members of the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board are invited to volunteer on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed to help plant four garden plots. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided.
    - 1. To participate, please contact Firefighter Holmes:
      - a. (770) 790 – 7729
      - b. avholmes@atlantaga.gov

**Alix Janke LMSW, Inspiritus**  
**Melanie Harrell, Partners for Home**  
**Amber Austin, Partners for Home**

- Thrive! Youth Host Homes (LGBTQ Youth Program)

## THRIVE! YOUTH HOST HOMES

An Inspiritus Program



Help us put an end to youth homelessness by opening your home as Youth Host Home Provider. Inspiritus is seeking compassionate families and individuals to provide temporary spaces for young adults ages 18-24 to live safely in home settings as they work toward transitioning to permanent housing.

#### WHAT IS A YOUTH HOST HOME?

Youth host homes provide supportive, short-term housing for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness, with a focus on youth who identify as LGBTQ.

#### WHY IS THE HOST HOME MODEL EFFECTIVE?

This program has been designed to meet the specific needs of the youth population. It shares similarities to the foster care model in that youth are placed into caring, family-based home environments. While in the host home program, youth receive services designed to help them further their education and obtain employment, so they can work toward finding and securing permanent housing.

#### HOW LONG DO YOUTH STAY IN THE HOMES?

Host Homes provide housing and support for periods ranging generally from very short term (emergency respite/weekend stays) to up to nine months.

#### WHAT KIND OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT IS PROVIDED ?

Hosts receive extensive training prior to opening their homes and receive ongoing support from the Inspiritus host home recruiter.

Youth in the program will receive guidance and support from Inspiritus case managers who will help create a plan for transitioning to stable, permanent housing.

#### HOW ARE YOUTH MATCHED WITH THE HOST HOMES?

A strong emphasis is placed on placing youth in the most supportive environment for their needs, goals and preferences.

Youth choice is an important aspect of the program. Youth are empowered to make decisions regarding their placement and care.



Are you interested in learning more about becoming a Youth Host Home Provider?

Contact Fran Patrick at [fran.patrick@weinspirit.org](mailto:fran.patrick@weinspirit.org) or call 404-632-4899.



[Facebook.com/ weareinspiritus](https://www.facebook.com/weareinspiritus)



[@weareinspiritus](https://twitter.com/weareinspiritus)

[weinspirit.org](http://weinspirit.org)

- **Ways To Support The Youth Host Home Program**
  - i. Facilitate introductions to community partners who may be interested in supporting this program as volunteers, hosts, and/or stakeholders
  - ii. Cohost an event with Inspiritus to highlight the work and garner more support and potential hosts
  - iii. Share information about the program and upcoming events with personal networks
  - iv. Connect us with media partners that we should be talking to as we work to introduce ourselves and let everyone know about the project



**BE THE CHANGE.**  
**HOST A YOUNG ADULT  
EXPERIENCING  
HOMELESSNESS IN  
YOUR HOME!**

Join Us For A  
**THRIVE! Youth Host Home**  
open house & info session

Wed, April 24 at 7 pm

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church  
1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30306

**For more info**  
Fran Patrick  
Youth Host Home Recruiter  
fran.patrick@weinspirit.org  
404 632 4899  
weinspirit.org/thrive

Point Source Youth  
Inspiritus



### III. Updates & Discussion, LGBTQ Arts, Entertainment & Culture Working Group

- v. Targeted for the week of 4/29/19, a call will go out for LGBTQ art or art by LGBTQ artists – to be displayed in the Mayor’s Gallery (*hallway leading into the Mayor’s Office*) during National Pride Month (*June*). A small jury of five will decide on the art that will be recommended to the Mayor to display. An invite only opening reception is being targeted for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Mayor’s LGBTQ Advisory Board will be invited. Formal call for art, flyer and invitation to the event to follow.
- vi. On Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, following a march organized by Atlanta Pride, the committee will be organizing a block party in the parking lot of Out Front Theatre Company.
- vii. Committee is working to explore the possibility of producing PSAs. First two PSAs would be around LGBTQ youth homelessness and issues around trans people using the bathrooms that align with their gender identity.
- viii. Group wants to support the efforts of **The Dignity Museum** by referring members of the LGBTQ community to the project. The Dignity Museum shares the stories of the forgotten, while presenting the unjust causes for the disparity in resource allocation. The stories of those who were born into poverty, those who became homeless as adults, the kids holding cardboard signs at the stoplight, and their collective fight to beat their circumstances.

Through interactive technology, research, storytelling, exhibits, and thought-provoking questions, visitors will confront their ideas of homelessness and what it takes to escape it.

The museum is designed to take the guest through a journey to promote a hopeful future of equality, opportunity, and justice.



#### **IV. Update & Discussion, LGBTQ Economic & Community Development Working Group**

- ix. The committee is working to assist the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) by compiling a list of national LGBTQ events and conferences that the ACVB can work to recruit.
- x. Committee is working with Invest Atlanta, the City of Atlanta's economic development authority, to possibly dedicate funding to LGBTQ specific programs and to market loans and trainings to the LGBTQ community.
- xi. Committee wants the City of Atlanta to be a policy leader for the region and nation. Mayor's leadership in urging the State of Georgia to ban conversion therapy and hiring a full time LGBTQ liaison in the executive offices are perfect example.
- xii. The LGBTQ Institute (National Center for Civil & Human Rights) is hosting their annual business forum on Tuesday, October 9th, 2019.

#### **V. Break & Grab Lunch**

#### **VI. Introduction of the City of Atlanta's New Chief Equity Officer, Bill Hawthorne**

- xiii. As Chief Equity Officer, Hawthorne oversees the team responsible for realizing Mayor Bottoms' vision for an inclusive Atlanta by defining and operationalizing equity through the City of Atlanta. Prior to his appointment, Hawthorne was CEO and President of New York-based consulting firm D/I Solutions. He previously served as Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Business Council at Macy's, Inc.

Before being named Chief Diversity Officer, Hawthorne worked for the Macy's, Inc. law department and also as a former attorney for the City of Atlanta Solicitor's Office and trial attorney for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Hawthorne is a graduate of Morehouse College and holds a Doctor of Laws degree from the Emory University School of Law.

- xiv. **Email:** bhawthorne@AtlantaGa.Gov
- xv. **Phone Number:** (404) 546 - 0745

**VII. Update & Discussion, LGBTQ Health Working Group (10 Minutes)**

- i. Committee is working on a HIV housing related proposal for the Mayor's FY20 budget
- ii. Co-Chairs have met once with City of Atlanta officials regarding housing for people living with HIV/AIDS and discussed the need for a regional strategy addressing HIV. Working to schedule follow-up meeting.
- iii. Co-Chairs are disappointed with some of the HOPWA related happenings recently.

**VIII. Update & Discussion, Trans Affairs Working Group (10 Minutes)**

- i. After sending out a survey with over 150 respondents, the Trans Affairs committee is focusing on two key priority areas: trans employment and trans housing.
- ii. Housing sub-committee of the Trans Affairs working group has begun meeting. Working to schedule next meeting with sub-committee members and City of Atlanta officials.
- iii. Group will be working to ensure that LGBTQ people know how to report cases of discrimination at shelters for those experiencing homelessness.
- iv. Working group is working on budget proposal for Mayor for cultural competency trainings at shelters that receive funding from the City.
- v. The LGBTQ Institute (National Center for Civil & Human Rights) is hosting a symposium on Transgender Equity in Housing, Employment & Healthcare on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 9 AM – 4:30 PM. **Info:** [eventbrite.com/e/2019-lgbtq-institute-symposium-tickets-58681761729](https://eventbrite.com/e/2019-lgbtq-institute-symposium-tickets-58681761729)

**IX. Update & Discussion, LGBTQ Youth Working Group (10 Minutes)**

- i. Working group is working to produce a comprehensive resource app for LGBTQ youth.
- ii. Mayor's Office is planning an LGBTQ "opportunity fair" targeted for Q1 of 2020

**X. Public Comment (10 Minutes)**

**XI. Adjournment**