



Jackson County Missouri

Jackson County Courthouse
415 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor
Kansas City, Missouri
64106
(816)881-3242

Request for Legislative Action

File #: 26-318, **Version:** 0

REQUESTED MEETING DATE: Select Date

Resolution No. 22305

Sponsor: Jalen Anderson and Manuel Abarca IV

Date: June 15, 2026

SPONSORS:

Jalen Anderson

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To be confirmed by County Counselor's Office:

STAFF CONTACT: Winifred Jamieson **PHONE:** 816-522-7273

EMAIL: Winifred.jamieson@jacksongov.org

DEPARTMENT: Legislature, First District At-Large

TITLE: A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring the pioneering individuals, organizations, and historic milestones that established Jackson County, Missouri as an early center of LGBTQ+ civil rights advocacy and community building.

SUMMARY: RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring the pioneering individuals, organizations, and historic milestones that established Jackson County, Missouri as an early center of LGBTQ+ civil rights advocacy and community building.

WHEREAS,

Jackson County, Missouri and the Kansas City metropolitan area played a significant role in the early development of LGBTQ+ civil rights advocacy in the United States, including hosting a 1966 national planning conference that brought together leaders of the emerging homophile movement; and

WHEREAS,

this convening contributed to early national organizing efforts and positioned Kansas City as a hub for communication, coordination, and advancement of LGBTQ+ advocacy during a time when such efforts were undertaken at great personal risk; and

WHEREAS,

Drew Shafer founded the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom and established early institutions that supported LGBTQ+ advocacy and community building in Missouri; and

WHEREAS,

Kansas City became an important center for the production and distribution of LGBTQ+ advocacy materials during the 1960s, supporting the broader national movement; and

WHEREAS,

Lea Hopkins is recognized as a trailblazing Black lesbian leader who played a central role in organizing early Pride celebrations and advocating for visibility and justice; and

WHEREAS,

Jon Barnett founded the Kansas City chapter of ACT UP and led efforts to raise awareness and demand action during the HIV/AIDS crisis; and

WHEREAS,

Tim Van Zandt became Missouri's first openly gay state representative in 1994, advancing representation and equality; and

WHEREAS,

Jeannette Howard Foster contributed to early LGBTQ+ scholarship through her literary research; and

WHEREAS,

Andrea Nedelsky and Maryanne Hopper helped establish Womontown, an intentional community that provided a safe and affirming space for lesbian residents; and

WHEREAS,

institutions such as the KC Pioneers and the Gay and Lesbian Archives of Mid-America continue to preserve and advance the history and contributions of LGBTQ+ residents; and

WHEREAS,

preserving and uplifting this history remains essential to ensuring that all residents are recognized, respected, and included in Jackson County's ongoing story;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, that the Legislature hereby recognizes and honors the pioneering individuals, organizations, and milestones that established Jackson County as an early center of LGBTQ+ civil rights advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the Legislature expresses its appreciation for the leaders, organizers, and community members whose efforts have shaped a more inclusive community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the Legislature affirms the importance of preserving this history for future generations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NO

Amount	Fund	Department	Line-Item Detail

YES

ACTION NEEDED: COURTESY (NO LEGAL IMPACT)

ATTACHMENTS:

Click or tap here to enter text.