

## Item 15.8

### Notices of Motion

#### Rainbow Community Angels

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the Rainbow Community Angels is an LGBTIQ+ community-led safety initiative that trains and supports LGBTIQ+ people and allies to take part in community events, to ensure those events remain safe and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ people, families, friends, allies and the wider community;
  - (ii) Rainbow Community Angels was founded in Victoria in response to the increased anti-trans and queer-phobic attacks that increased particularly during and post-pandemic, including attacks targeting events like Drag Story Time;
  - (iii) the Rainbow Community Angels:
    - (a) offer their presence (and the presence of trained volunteers) to Councils, libraries, cafes and others organising LGBTIQ+ events and activities;
    - (b) train and support LGBTIQ+ people and allies (volunteers) to act as Rainbow Community Angels, working together to create a safe and fun atmosphere at LGBTIQ+ events, including providing training in how to constructively respond and de-escalate in the face of organised hate groups who may seek to disrupt events; and
    - (c) otherwise work with Councils, community members and event staff to increase event safety, including to provide safe passage to ensure people can participate in planned LGBTIQ+ events;
- (B) the City of Sydney currently funds a wide range of LGBTIQ+ organisations, programs and events, and supports initiatives such as Wear it Purple, Trans Day of Visibility, Rainbow Story Time and other library events;
- (C) following the Lord Mayor's LGBTIQ+ Safety Summit held in February 2024, the Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer investigate and report back to Council on opportunities for Council to support community-led initiatives which keep LGBTIQ+ people safe and supported;
- (D) the Rainbow Community Angels have offered to collaborate with the City of Sydney and Inner West Councils to pilot community training, based on what has worked in Victoria;

- (E) the Rainbow Community Angels work would complement what is already underway in the City of Sydney and inner-west, by providing community members, Council staff and others with training and practical advice about how to constructively respond to threats against LGBTIQ+ community events, with an emphasis on inclusion, de-escalation and fun;
- (F) Council:
- (i) agree in principle to engage the Rainbow Community Angels to provide a pilot training for community members, LGBTIQ+ groups, and Council staff in or near the City of Sydney Local Government Area;
  - (ii) allocate a budget of up to \$15,000 to be drawn from savings in the 2023/24 operational budget to support pilot training, if possible held before or in time for Pride month (June 2024); and
  - (iii) coordinate with the Inner West Council with the aim of delivering a joint event or training where possible, and other interested Councils if this is practical; and
- (G) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) liaise with the Rainbow Community Angels, Inner West Council and LGBTIQ+ groups to give effect to this motion; and
  - (ii) keep the Council updated on the progress of implementation of this motion through the CEO Update.

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