

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 153 GOVERNING  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HAIR STYLE OR TEXTURE**

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, the City Council of The City of Morgantown adopted its Resolution affirming support for the CROWN Act, which is intended to create a respectful and open world for natural hair; and

WHEREAS, the resolution supporting the CROWN Act directed that the City Code be amended to provide specific protection for natural and protective hairstyles in connection with the City's prohibition on discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, there is currently pending before the West Virginia House of Delegates legislation adding protection for natural and protective hairstyles to the West Virginia Human Rights Act, codified at *W. Va. Code* § 5-11-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will add language from Senate Bill 108 and House Bill 4508 to the City Human Rights Commission authorizing ordinance with the intention to establish a consistent protection against discrimination based on natural and protective hairstyles;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Morgantown hereby ordains that Section 153.02 of the City Code is amended as follows:

*Discriminate or discrimination* means to exclude from, or fail or refuse to extend to, a person equal opportunities because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, blindness, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status or veteran status and includes to separate or segregate. For the purposes of this article, discrimination based on race includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on hair textures and protective hairstyles historically associated with a particular race.

*Race* means a social construct grouping humans based on shared physical or social qualities into categories generally viewed as distinct, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles.

*Protective hairstyles* means hairstyles historically associated with a particular race and includes, but is not limited to, hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

This ordinance is effective upon adoption.

---

FIRST READING

---

Mayor

---

SECOND READING

---

City Clerk

---

ADOPTED

---

FILED