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Huntington receives perfect score in 2022 Municipal Equality Index

HUNTINGTON – For the fourth consecutive year, the City of Huntington has received a perfect score from the nation’s largest LGBTQ civil rights organization for creating an inclusive community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The Human Rights Campaign this week released its 2022 Municipal Equality Index, which ranked 506 U.S. cities of varying sizes on several factors, including nondiscrimination laws, municipal employment policies, inclusiveness of city services, law enforcement with regard to LGBTQ persons and municipal leadership on matters of equality.

Huntington received a perfect score of 100 on a 100-point scale and a raw score of 106, its highest ever recorded in the annual report. Only 120 cities received a perfect score, up from 110 in 2021. For the second consecutive year, two West Virginia cities received a perfect score in the Municipal Equality Index. Morgantown achieved a perfect score along with Huntington. The nationwide average was 68.

Charleston (94), Wheeling (59), Charles Town (45), Lewisburg (45) and Parkersburg (13) were also included in the report.

Huntington also for the sixth consecutive year was designated as an “All-Star” city for scoring above 85 points despite hailing from a state without LGBTQ-inclusive statewide non-discrimination laws. Across the country, 80 cities like these set a standard of LGBTQ inclusiveness with exemplary, best-practice policies such as local non-discrimination laws, providing transgender-inclusive health benefits for city employees and offering LGBTQ-inclusive city services.

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“Receiving a perfect score in the 2022 Municipal Equality Index validates what our community already knows -- that Huntington is a city of honor, respect and compassion,” Mayor Steve Williams said. “We take it seriously that we were the first city in West Virginia to achieve a perfect score four years ago. We know we set the standard for other cities and the state itself to follow.

“We are organizing our community so that every person has a distinct and vested responsibility to advance our city’s prosperity. Our vision is that we embrace our diversity and actively seek inclusiveness as we learn to stand as one people celebrating our differences. We will be able to shape our future by assuring every person in our city has a seat at the table and has a voice to be heard.”

The full report, including detailed scorecards for every city and a searchable database, is available online at www.hrc.org/mei.

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