

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO REPLACE GENDER-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE WITH GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

The Council of the City of San Buenaventura does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

The following gendered phrases and terms can be found in the San Buenaventura Municipal Code:

female	his, her, his or her,	salesman
fraternal	his/her, his/hers	sorority
he, she, he or she,	male	watchman
he/she	man	woman
herself	manhole	women
him	manmade	
himself	patrolmen	

Section 2. Code Amendments.

The usage of gender-specific language reflected throughout the entire San Buenaventura Municipal Code is hereby replaced.

Gendered language shall be replaced with gender-neutral pronouns. Gender-specific language such as “he,” “she,” “him,” “his,” or “her” shall be replaced with appropriate gender-neutral pronouns such as “they,” “their,” or “them” as grammatically appropriate and in a manner that does not change the legal meaning of any provision of the Municipal Code.

Gendered language will be preserved if legally required due to the specific gendered intent of the provision.

- (a) The gender-neutral pronoun includes the feminine and masculine genders.
- (b) “They/them/their” shall indicate a singular individual unless the context indicates the contrary.
- (c) The following changes will be made to non-pronoun language:

"Fraternal"	"Social"
"Male" and "female"	"People of different genders"
"Manhole"	"Maintenance hole"
"Manmade"	"Human-made"
"Men and women"	"People"
"Patrolmen"	"Patrol"
"Salesman"	"Salesperson," "Salespeople"
"Sorority," "Fraternity"	"Collegiate Greek system residence"
"Watchmen"	"Guards"

Section 3. Future Ordinances.

The City's codifier has authority to update gender-specific language in future ordinances by making changes outlined in this ordinance.

Section 4. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

The foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of San Buenaventura on July 24, 2023 and ordered published by posting the following vote:

- Ayes: Councilmembers Duran, McReynolds, Johnson, Halter, Campos, and Mayor Schroeder
- Noes: None
- Absent: Deputy Mayor Sanchez-Palacios

 Joe Schroeder
 Mayor

ATTEST:



For Michael B. MacDonald, CMC
City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM
Andrew Heglund, City Attorney

By: *Miles Hogan* 9/14/2023
Miles Hogan Date
Senior Assistant City Attorney