

Proposition H was a city initiative that passed in the fall 2003 election. It ushered in reforms to the commission to improve citizen oversight of the San Francisco Police Department. Among other things, it expanded the size of the commission, including expanding the number of commissioners appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Sparks joined the larger commission in 2004 as an appointee of the board.

Sparks, whose day job is president of sexuality product retailer Good Vibrations, takes over as president of the commission June 1.

Berkeley Promotes Inclusive Health Care

By a unanimous vote, the Berkeley City Council took a step forward in improving the work environment for all city employees and retirees May 7.

The council directed City Manager Phil Kamlarz to create a proposal for removing exclusions in its health plan that deny coverage for medically necessary, transition-related procedures. The motion, sponsored by Councilors Kriss Worthington and Darryl Moore, could lead to changes that will make Berkeley a more competitive employer that better takes care of the health of all its employees.

The motion began as the idea of Berkeley city employee Lynn Riordan.

"Creating health care equality is good for business," said Christopher Daley, Transgender Law Center director. "Other government employers and top corporations have found this to be true over the last decade. As Berkeley moves toward joining their ranks, they are proving themselves to be an employer who invests in the long-term health and vitality of the people who make the city such a great place to live."

COLORADO

Legislature Passes Nondiscrimination Bill

The Colorado Senate passed a bill May 3 prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. This legislation, which previously passed the House, now goes to Democratic Gov. Bill Ritter's desk.

When the bill is signed into law, Colorado will become the 20th U.S. state to ban workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the 12th to ban discrimination on the basis of gender identity.



Steven Stanton, former city manager of Largo, Fla., is applying for a post in Sarasota.



Theresa Sparks is the first transgender person to lead the San Francisco Police Commission.

FLORIDA

Judge Grants Privacy for GSA Members

U.S. Magistrate Judge Frank J. Lynch Jr.'s April 27 ruling is the latest in a series of early victories for the American Civil Liberties Union in its lawsuit against the Okeechobee School District's discriminatory actions against Okeechobee High School's Gay Straight Alliance.

The ACLU motion seeking a protective order was intended to prevent school board attorneys from asking personal questions that were unrelated to the case and intended to embarrass students, such as the names of anonymous participants, the sexual orientation of club members and other personal information. Enforcement of the Federal Equal Access Act, on which the students' case is based, doesn't require their personal information be revealed.

"The school's thinly veiled attempt to humiliate students in their community was transparent, and the court saw through it," said Brandon Hensler, ACLU of Florida spokesman. "These students are attempting to encourage tolerance and have discussions about discrimination. The school's attempt to use the courtroom to violate students' privacy and expose them to harassment is a sad testament to how far they are willing to go to stifle free speech and impose their own beliefs on others."

Earlier this month, U.S. District Court Judge K. Michael Moore granted a preliminary injunction requiring the school to allow the club to meet on campus, as other clubs already do. The injunction was granted based on the Federal Equal Access Act, which requires schools that allow any club to meet on campus to allow all clubs to meet on campus, without discrimination.

City Manager Applies for New Post

Steven Stanton, former city manager of Largo, Fla., awaits a new position following his firing last month.

Stanton, who was fired after *The St. Petersburg Times* reported in February that he was preparing for sex-reassignment surgery, submitted a résumé as Susan Stanton for the position of city manager in Sarasota.

Semifinalists will be interviewed by city commissioners May 29. Stanton reportedly said that he will begin appearing as a woman in June and that he will not file a lawsuit against the city of Largo. 10

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