

THE SURFUS FOUNDATION

Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – **The Surfus Foundation**, an LGBTQ+ foundation in downtown Grand Rapids, MI, launched its Grand 100 Campaign in July 2022. The Grand 100 Campaign's goal was to make Grand Rapids the fifth city in Michigan to receive a perfect 100 score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. Dr. Chris Surfus, Ph.D., the Founding President of The Surfus Foundation, asked the City of Grand Rapids to make a series of changes to LGBTQ+ policy at a July 2022 City Commission meeting. The 2023 MEI Scorecard was released by the Human Rights Campaign yesterday.

Today, we are pleased to announce that our Grand 100 Campaign was successful. We applaud the City of Grand Rapids leaders for their work advancing LGBTQ+ equality in public policy. **The City of Grand Rapids now has a perfect 100 score on the Municipal Equality Index.**

Improvements at the state level include a Conversion Therapy Ban. At the city level, the City of Grand Rapids adopted a City Contractor Nondiscrimination Ordinance, implemented city services for youth and the transgender community, city leadership made pro-LGBTQ+ equality efforts in legislature and policy, and the city tested the limits of restrictive state law.

There is still work to be done on LGBTQ+ policy, including Transgender-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits that Dr. Surfus advocated for when speaking at the July 2022 City Commission meeting. We are very proud of our city for understanding both the human rights and economic development benefits to our broader region.

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