SUBJECT: Letter of support for Jefferson County Pride’s teen center.

SUMMARY STATEMENT: When the Port Townsend Boiler Room closed in 2018, it left a whole in the community, particularly for young people. This comes at a time when suicide rates are up for people aged fifteen to twenty-four, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people between the ages of ten and thirty-four per the National Institute of Mental Health. The Center for Disease Control emphasizes social connections and supportive environments in preventing suicide. For this reason, safe locations, like the Boiler Room, where young people connect with one another and be their authentic selves are important.

Jefferson County Pride is seeking funding to establish a new teen center, open to all young people, but specifically designed as a safe space for LGBTQ youth. JCP has already received several grants and is working with other government organizations and the Health Care Equity Committee at Jefferson Health Care in order to make the teen center a reality. Currently, JCP plans to locate the teen center in the Recreation Center in Port Townsend. JCP has asked for a letter of support from the City to use in applications for grants and as they look for additional funding.

ATTACHMENTS: None

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION: If adopted as part of the Consent Agenda, no further action is needed; this effectively represents unanimous approval of the submission of a letter of support to the Jefferson County Pride’s Teen Center
ALTERNATIVES:
☒ Take No Action ☐ Refer to Committee ☐ Refer to Staff ☒ Postpone Action
☒ Remove from Consent Agenda ☐ Waive Council Rules and approve Ordinance ____
☐ Other: