



SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mayor Chelsea Lee Byers  
Vice Mayor John Heilman  
Councilmember Danny Hang  
Councilmember John M. Erickson  
Councilmember Lauren Meister  
City of West Hollywood

June 22, 2025

RE: Public Comment in Support of Agenda Item F.5 – Updating the City's Domestic Partnership Ordinance

Dear Mayor Chelsea Lee Byers, Vice Mayor John Heilman, and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to express my strong support for **Agenda Item F.5** on the June 23, 2025, City Council agenda. I urge you to vote in favor of this item and direct the City Attorney to work with the City Clerk to evaluate amending the City's Domestic Partnership ordinance to allow people in diverse family relationships, including triads and other polyamorous relationships, to register as domestic partners.

I want to thank Vice Mayor John Heilman and Mayor Chelsea Lee Byers for championing this issue, including the continued work to advance a non-discrimination ordinance that protects against discrimination based on diverse family and relationship structure. Like the non-discrimination ordinance, passing Agenda Item F.5 would give the City of West Hollywood a powerful opportunity to build upon its legacy as a national leader in LGBTQ+ rights and equity, especially at a time when fundamental rights face increasing threats.

The City of West Hollywood has long stood at the forefront of advancing equality, inclusion, and the recognition of diverse families. In 1985, it became the first city in the United States to establish a domestic partnership registry, and in 1995, it was among the first to pass a resolution in support of same sex marriage. This legacy of leadership continues to inspire communities across the country—and it's one I am personally grateful for as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and a longtime advocate.

However, as I wrote in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, current state laws still largely privilege one specific family structure: partnerships between two people. But domestic partnership policies should be designed to support the needs of all families today, not just those that conform to religious or heteronormative expectations. Unfortunately, families outside that mold—including polyamorous families—remain excluded from many of the rights, protections, and dignities afforded to nuclear families.

Consensual non-monogamy, including polyamory, is far more common than many realize—about as common as owning a cat. Research shows that 4% to 5% of adults are currently in consensually non-monogamous relationships, and roughly 1 in 5 have been at some point in their lives. Polyamorous relationships are a valid and common experience for many LGBTQ+ people—particularly younger generations, who are increasingly embracing diverse ways of loving and building families. Poly families disproportionately include bi+, trans, and nonbinary individuals—communities that already experience

structural discrimination and legal invisibility. LGBTQ+ people deserve to see our realities reflected in policy—not erased for the sake of simplicity or “tradition.”

Acknowledging multi-partner domestic partnerships can offer recognition and validation to diverse families, and help provide essential rights and benefits that should be afforded to all persons who share their homes, hearts, and lives. In Massachusetts, the cities of Somerville, Cambridge, and Arlington adopted the first three ordinances in the country recognizing multi-partner domestic partnerships, setting a precedent for inclusive family recognition.

As societal norms continue to evolve, we need leadership from cities such as West Hollywood. By taking bold action at the local level, West Hollywood can help catalyze broader change. I urge you to vote in favor of Agenda Item F.5, and I look forward to continuing to support the City of West Hollywood’s leadership in promoting inclusivity and equality for all residents, regardless of their family and relationship structure.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Christina M. Fialho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christina" and last name "Fialho" clearly legible.

Christina M. Fialho (she/her)  
Founder & President  
Rewrite the BiLine

*Rewrite the BiLine is a social enterprise that aims to rewrite the narrative on bi+ people and non-nuclear families in film, television, and the media through script-to-screen consulting, public education, and investment in bi+ voices in order to create lasting social and political change.*