



## **ORLANDO DEMONSTRATES LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS, IN A PRESENTATION TO FIFA**

**Local government, civic leaders and industry experts shared information, answered questions and built on the comprehensive Human Rights plan that was delivered to FIFA as part of the bidding process**

**ORLANDO, FL** [December 10, 2021]: Yesterday, on the eve of International Human Rights Day across the world, Mayor Buddy Dyer, Mayor Jerry Demings, Orlando 2026 Human Rights Committee Chairman Latria Graham, Jason Siegel from the Greater Orlando Sports Commission, Richard Lapchick, President of the Institute for Sport and Social Justice, and other community and civic leaders shared their commitment to leveraging the opportunity to host 2026 FIFA World Cup™ as a catalyst for driving meaningful, measurable change in Orlando, the United States, and beyond. The teleconference with leaders from FIFA and U.S. Soccer was an opportunity for members of the local organizing committee to share outcomes of Orlando's human rights stakeholder engagements and answer questions about human rights issues.

For the eighth straight year, the City Beautiful scored the highest score of 100 for equality in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). The MEI reports how inclusive municipal laws, policies and services are of LGBTQI people. Orlando was one of only eight cities in Florida and 110 municipalities nationwide to receive a perfect score.

The 2026 Greater Orlando FIFA World Cup Bid Committee (GO26) contended that Orlando, a strong, socially responsible community, is well-positioned to preserve and protect individual human rights, prevent abuse, deliver support, and both uphold and champion human rights laws and policies. Furthermore, the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ would serve as an accelerant for existing programs and commitments on these and other issues. The team showcased their strongly held belief that human rights are universal to every Orlando resident along with the 76 million visitors that travel to Orlando annually. The team shares its enthusiasm with FIFA to combat discrimination and racism of any kind while ensuring everyone is equally valued, equally protected and has equitable access to opportunities.

GO26 delivered a comprehensive human rights plan to FIFA as part of the bidding process. Among the notable achievements noted within the submission: Passing a non-discrimination ordinance; creating robust human trafficking prevention training and victim services programs; supporting marriage equality in court briefs; offering same-sex domestic partnership benefits for city workers; offering economic mobility services for immigrants and refugees; offering fair pay for city and county workers; establishing a Community Trust & Equity Initiative that includes support from the Orlando Police Department and other city agencies; supporting access to procurement opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses; rethinking our approach to homelessness with strategic policy changes and fair access to housing; and focusing on underserved youth with safeguarding protections, anti-bullying programs and increased civic participation.

"We are committed to building a long-lasting human rights legacy," said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. "Together with FIFA we hope to have the chance to give a voice to vulnerable and underserved populations and show other host cities, and fans around the world, the importance of these issues and

our collective actions. We welcome the opportunity to work with FIFA on these and other critical efforts for years to come.”

“Orange County has the resources, philanthropic programs, and infrastructures in place to build and maintain a strong framework in protecting human rights,” said Mayor Jerry Demings. “Time and time again we have proven our ability to work with the community on these important issues, and successfully host major sporting events that help to advance our efforts in these critical areas. In the build-up to 2026 FIFA World Cup™ we will continue to expand these commitments and grow even stronger.”

The human rights plan was developed by the 2026 Greater Orlando FIFA World Cup Pursuit Committee and a working group on Human Rights, with full support from Mayor Buddy Dyer and Mayor Jerry Demings.

- The working group enlisted more than 60 community leaders across seven subcommittees – housing rights, human trafficking, LGBTQI+ rights, migrant rights, safety and security, workers’ rights and children’s rights. Each group worked independently in their respective critical topic area to identify priority issues and opportunities.
- The GO26 team also hosted five collaborative multi-stakeholder video conference workshops and conducted dozens of individual consultations in order to collect input. During the group sessions, stakeholders worked in topic-specific sub-committees to develop detailed plans. The one-on-one consultations allowed the GO26 team to engage directly with experts to review specific plans and proposed solutions.

The outcome of these collective discussions reaffirmed Orlando’s profound alignment with the foundational principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and our ongoing commitment to unite with our community in the pursuit of justice, peace, equality, respect and fair treatment for all Orlando residents.

FIFA is expected to make its final decision on which cities across North America will host matches by the second quarter of 2022.

To view Orlando’s Human Rights report, visit [www.Orlando2026.com](http://www.Orlando2026.com).

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