

## Family matter led to White's support - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - July 9, 1993

July 9, 1993 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Jackie Sheckler

Emotions were running high during the Bloomington city council debate over the gay rights ordinance when City Councilman Kirk White slipped from the meeting.

Heading to a nearby telephone, White placed a call to his mother, ending with his asking her ``to say a prayer for me."

``This is a very tough decision," an ashen-faced White told another person waiting for the phone.

``But I felt there is something I have to do tonight," White said before heading back to his council seat.

About four hours later, White shared with a huge audience something he had never publicly discussed before - what he had asked for his mother's support in - what he had asked for his mother's support in doing.

White announced that one of his own family members is gay.

``I have never talked about this in public . . . but in the face of what we are doing here tonight, I thought I should explain."

Then White proceeded to join the council in unanimously supporting the addition of sexual orientation to the city's human rights ordinance.

No one should be discriminated against, White said. And seeing how his gay family member has suffered has brought that fact home very strongly for him, White added.

``My family member deserves not to be discriminated against."

It was through a 1983 early-morning telephone call from his mother that White learned about his homosexual relative. And such a revelation 10 years ago was very difficult for a family to deal with, White explained.

``But in 1993, it is a little easier . . . I still love that family member. It has never changed how I felt about that family member."

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