



1976 - 1979

Tucson Gay Coalition Archives®©
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1978 Tucson Gay Coalition At The "United We Stand" Rally
In Downtown Tucson Arizona. Beverly Ginn Co-Founder.

The Tucson Gay Coalition formed in 1976 during a series of local police raids on the city's parks and Gay bars. Soon it was forming alliances with the existing Gay-Lesbian organizations in Tucson.

Shortly after it had formed, the Tucson Gay Coalition became publicly involved after the June 6, 1976 murder of a young tourist Richard Heakin on his last day visiting Tucson while on vacation when the Pima County Judge quickly dropped all charges and released the high school students charged in murdering Mr. Heakin to go right back home and right back to school with simple probation. [1]
[2]

Tucson Gay Coalition was unable to change any of the rulings of the judge in that trial or later in the recall efforts of the judge that were pushed by the *Tucson Gay Newsletter* publication that soon followed the trial.

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However, in 1977 the Tucson Gay Coalition along with the National Organization For Women, American Civil Liberties Union, Tucson Women's Commission, Tucson City Attorney, *Tucson Gay Newsletter* publication and numerous others were able to influence the Tucson City Council to vote on including "*sexual or affectual preference*" in a city code section prohibiting discrimination against persons on the basis of sex, religion, age, physical handicap, and national origin in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations within the city limits of Tucson in 1977. [3] The Tucson Gay Coalition Newsletter February, 1977 Vol. 1 No. 6 Page 1

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The group then refocused to other Gay & Lesbian civil rights issues through various methods that included lobbying and protests including the publishing of a newsletter, and community activities in Tucson until 1979. [4] The Tucson Gay Coalition Newsletter February, 1977 Vol. 1 No. 6 Page 1

See: *The History Of The Tucson Gay Coalition*®© in book, audio book, and movie dvd documentary formats.

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This Museum is dedicated to all those of the Tucson Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer Community that have come before, are here now, and will take our places in the future of Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

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