

Proclamation

Board of Commissioners for Washington County

A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH 2021

WHEREAS, our country was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this promise has been too long in coming for many Americans, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people; and

WHEREAS, an historic turning point in the movement toward equal rights for LGBTQ people occurred on June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, when LGBTQ community members rose up and fought back against brutal police raids and discriminatory criminal laws that have since been declared unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, the first LGBTQ Pride parade took place one year later on June 28, 1970 to commemorate the events at Stonewall, launching what would become an annual nationwide tradition of Pride celebrations every year since then; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 1999, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month" to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and on June 1, 2009, President Barack Obama expanded the commemoration further by declaring June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2016, President Barack Obama designated the Stonewall Inn as a national monument, forever preserving this historic site where the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement began; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that, amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's continuing struggle to seek justice for Black lives, our current Pride Month celebrations underscore the critical role that intersectionality plays in the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning justice; and


WHEREAS, we remember that the uprising at Stonewall was led by people of color and Black trans members of the LGBTQ community, and that past and present battles for racial and LGBTQ justice in this country were built on the shoulders of courageous change makers like José Sarria, Maxine Perkins, Donna Burkett, Manonia Evans, Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera and many others; and

WHEREAS, even though actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have cancelled traditional Pride Month celebration events, our deep pride for the LGBTQ+ community, their great diversity, their invaluable contributions to our communities, and their ultimate triumph over discrimination and hate, can never be cancelled or forgotten; and

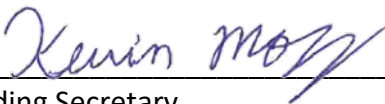
WHEREAS, love wins;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this first day of June, 2021, the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2021 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Queer Pride Month; and urge all community residents to eliminate discrimination and injustice wherever it exists, to celebrate the lives of our LGBTQ neighbors and friends, and to work together to create a more inclusive society that values all people, no matter who they are and who they love, extending the promise of our country to all people.





Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Board Chair



Recording Secretary

21-143
Minute Order