



CITY OF KIRKLAND

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Amy Bolen, Executive Assistant
Date: June 2, 2015
Subject: PROCLAMATION: JUNE 2015 AS PRIDE MONTH

RECOMMENDATION :

That the Mayor proclaim June 2015 as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

This year marks the 46th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots which is regarded as the catalyst for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) movement for civil rights in the United States. In June 1969, a group of gay customers at the pub in Stonewall Inn (Greenwich Village, New York) grew angry over harassment by law enforcement and held a demonstration, which turned into a multi-day riot and protest. The Stonewall riots have been commemorated since the 1970s with "pride marches" held every June across the United States.

The City of Kirkland's Affirmative Action Policy was amended in 2001 to include sexual orientation and is now established as:

Within the parameters required or allowed by law, it is the policy of the city to promote and assure equal opportunity based on ability and fitness to all persons regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a disabled person. (Kirkland Municipal Code 3.80.020)

The City's Diversity Committee, created in the early 1990's, is committed to cultivating "the development of an inclusive workplace using organizational values for strategic planning, and to guide us in the creation of a shared workplace culture." Members of the Diversity Committee will be at the June 2 Council meeting to accept the proclamation. This is the second year the City of Kirkland has proclaimed June as Pride Month.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming June 2015 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals are making meaningful contributions to work and life; and

WHEREAS, the catalyst for LGBTQ civil rights began with the Stonewall Riots in New York in June of 1969 and on the first anniversary of the riots, the first gay pride parades took place in Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and near the Stonewall Inn in New York; and

WHEREAS, Gay pride or LGBTQ pride refers to a worldwide movement and philosophy asserting that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals are proud of their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Washington State added "sexual orientation" to Washington state's anti-discrimination law in 2006, to ban discrimination in housing, employment, and insurance; and

WHEREAS, multiple states, including Washington, legalized marriage equality for same-sex couples;

WHEREAS, the Federal government has implemented changes to correct inequalities that extend hate crime protection, allow for hospital visitation rights, address bullying and other injustices endured by LGBTQ individuals; and

WHEREAS, the journey for equality and dignity for all individuals under the law continues; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim June 2015 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington as a celebration of hope and acceptance and an affirmation that LGBTQ rights are human rights.

Signed this 2nd day of June 2015

Amy Walen, Mayor