



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**City Manager's Office**  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
**Date:** June 14, 2016  
**Subject:** PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Mayor should proclaim June 2016 as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The month of June is generally regarded as Pride Month, in commemoration of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall Riots which took place in New York, in response to ongoing harassment of gay people by law enforcement. Demonstrations by a group of gay customers of the Stonewall Inn, a pub in Greenwich Village, turned into a multi-day violent riot and protest. Within weeks, Village residents organized around efforts to establish places for gays and lesbians to be open about their sexual orientation without fear of being arrested. On June 28, 1970, the first "Gay Pride" marches took place in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago commemorating the anniversary of the previous year's riots. Today, Gay Pride events are held annually throughout the world toward the end of June to mark the Stonewall riots

Last weekend, 49 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) people were callously gunned-down in a gay bar as they celebrated Gay Pride events in the City of Orlando, Florida.

This year's Mayor's Proclamation of Pride Month in the City of Kirkland is an opportunity to not only affirm the dignity of Kirkland's LGBTQ residents and employees, but it also represents an opportunity to call upon residents to assure that Kirkland is a safe place where all people can be themselves without fear of discrimination or violence.

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 21 Council meeting to accept the proclamation. This is the third year the City of Kirkland has proclaimed June as Pride Month.



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Proclaiming June 2016 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) people are our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who contribute meaningfully to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Gay Pride events are held in June to commemorate the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riots, that were sparked in response to ongoing police harassment of New York's gay community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stonewall riots were also the catalyst for establishing safe places for gays and lesbians to be open about their sexual orientation without fear of being arrested or jailed; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Booth Gardner issued executive orders in 1985 and 1991 prohibiting state agencies from discriminating in employment solely on the basis of sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, the City of Kirkland added "sexual orientation" to its Affirmative Action Policy to promote and assure equal opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, the state added protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the Washington Law Against Discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, 49 people were horrifically gunned-down and dozens more wounded in an act of violence against the LGBTQ community this month while celebrating Pride Days 2016 in Orlando, Florida, tragically reminding us just how far we still have to go to eliminate hatred and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, we stand with the families and friends of the victims in Orlando and mourners throughout the world, and dedicate ourselves to remember we could be Orlando and that no community can allow hatred to divide it;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim June 2016 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington as an affirmation that our LGBTQ community is loved for who they are, and to call upon residents to assure that Kirkland is a safe and welcoming place, where all people can be themselves without fear of discrimination or violence.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2016

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Amy Walen, Mayor