



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Parks & Community Services
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Leslie R Miller, Human Services Supervisor

Date: May 23, 2019

Subject: PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim June 2019 as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The PFLAG Bellevue/Eastside Chapter asks that the Mayor declare June as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland and accept a Pride Flag that can be flown at the Kirkland Justice Center in addition the flag that is flown over City Hall. Honoring this request provides an opportunity for the City to affirm its commitment to be a safe, inclusive and welcoming community that is open to everyone and where all people can be themselves without fear of discrimination or violence. The proclamation affirms the dignity of Kirkland residents, employees and visitors who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ).

The month of June was chosen for LGBTQ Pride Month to commemorate the riots held by members of the gay community against a police raid that took place at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969. The so-called Stonewall Riots were a "tipping point" for the gay rights movement in the United States, according to the Library of Congress. June, 2019 is the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

The rainbow LGBTQ flag is prominently displayed throughout Pride Month. Gilbert Baker, an American artist, gay rights activist, and U.S. Army veteran, created the original 8 color flag in 1978 as a new symbol for the gay and lesbian political movement, at the suggestion of his friends and colleagues, including Harvey Milk, a San Francisco City Supervisor and the first openly gay elected official in California. According to Baker's website, the flag was modified in 1979 to the current 6 colors, each of which has a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for serenity and violet for spirit.

PFLAG Bellevue/Eastside is a chapter of PFLAG National, the nation's largest family and ally organization. PFLAG unites people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer with families, friends, and allies. PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education, and advocacy.

PFLAG Bellevue/Eastside is an all-volunteer and self-funded chapter serving residents of East King County communities, including Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Sammamish, Bothell, Woodinville, Duvall, Snoqualmie, and Carnation. It is not affiliated with any political party or religion, but is single-minded in its commitment to advance equality through three tenets:

- Support for LGBTQ people and their families and friends
- Education for members and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

The Bellevue/Eastside chapter is often the first place that people on the Eastside turn to, when they or someone they love has come out or are questioning their sexuality and/or gender. It is also a place of ongoing connection for local LGBTQ people, family, and allies, where together they find acceptance, affirmation, and for those who are interested, opportunities to actively move equality forward together.

PFLAG Bellevue/Eastside meets people wherever they are on their journey, and brings hope and change to the Eastside community, providing a lifeline to people who feel isolated and alone, including highly vulnerable LGBTQ youth, and normalizing LGBTQ lives to family, friends, and neighbors.

The Chapter holds two monthly meetings, one in Bellevue and one in Bothell, offering peer-to-peer support and a guest speaker or panel to address issues that impact the LGBTQ community. In addition, members staff information tables at public events, march in community parades to increase visibility, advocate for safe schools and provide scholarships to Eastside high school students.

Members invite Councilmembers and the public to visit both its [website](#) that provides access to extensive resources including free PFLAG publications and its [Facebook page](#).

PFLAG Bellevue/Eastside Chair Beth Lenholt and others will accept the proclamation and offer a Pride flag on behalf of its members and all LGBT+ people in Kirkland and their friends, families, and allies.

Attachment

A – Proclamation Proclaiming Pride Month



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming June 2019 as “Pride Month” in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender 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 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, the fight for dignity, equality and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people has been hard-fought in the streets and in the courts of this country; and

WHEREAS, these fights for inclusion have made much progress toward changing the hearts and minds of people in many parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the City of Kirkland added "sexual orientation" to its Affirmative Action Policy; and in 2006 the State of Washington added protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the Washington law; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the City of Kirkland added a new chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal Code related to sustaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive community for all residents regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, do hereby proclaim June 2019 as “Pride Month” in Kirkland, Washington, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of our community, and as an affirmation of the City’s commitment to protect and serve everyone who resides in, works in, or visits Kirkland without discrimination, as well its belief in the dignity, equality and constitutional and civil rights of all people.

Signed this 4th day of June 2019

Penny Sweet, Mayor