



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Department of Parks & Community Services  
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[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lynn Zwaagstra, Director  
Leslie Miller, Human Services Supervisor  
Jennifer Boone, Human Services Coordinator

**Date:** June 1, 2021

**Subject:** Pride Month Proclamation

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Mayor proclaim June 2021 as Pride Month in the City of Kirkland.

### **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The month of June is celebrated as Pride Month, to commemorate the Stonewall Riots that occurred following a police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a gay club, on June 28, 1969 in New York City. The event became a tipping point for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in response to police harassment, sparking a civil rights movement within the LGBTQIA+ community. In commemoration of the historic event, members of the LGBTQIA community and allies unite to celebrate the history of Pride and commit to continuing the fight for human rights.

This proclamation affirms the dignity of Kirkland residents, employees, and visitors who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+).

Gilbert Baker, an American artist, gay rights activist, and U.S. Army veteran, created the original 8 color Pride 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. The flag was modified in 1979 to the six-color version: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for serenity and violet for spirit; and again in 2017 with pink, indigo, and lavender to represent diversity. In 2017, the city of Philadelphia adopted an updated flag to include brown and black stripes, incorporating the intersection and unique experience people of color have in the LGBTQIA+ community. In 2018, Daniel Quasar released a redesign called the Progress flag to include the baby blue, pink, and white colors from the trans pride flag. The Progress flag serves as a symbol of the LGBTQIA+ community's commitment to be more inclusive of the scope and intersection of identities within the community.

To commemorate the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the Progress flag will fly over City Hall and in Marina Park. This year, the Progress flag will also fly over, or be displayed prominently, at all Kirkland fire stations, the Kirkland Justice Center, the City maintenance facilities, and the community centers to affirm the City's commitment to be a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community against violence and discrimination.

The City of Kirkland's Affirmative Action Policy was amended in 2001 to include sexual orientation. 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.

Everyone has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year, but some communities, including the LGBTQIA+ community, have been hit harder than others. Over the last year, experts have seen higher rates of unemployment, barriers to health care access, and increase in mental health needs, specifically depression, anxiety and suicide. These challenges hold greater impacts, given LGBTQIA+ folks experience disproportionate rates of pre-existing conditions, placing them at risk for more severe effects from a COVID-19 diagnosis. Simultaneously, this information is challenging to track because of the limited data available for the LGBTQIA+ community and their experience when it comes to housing, healthcare, and unemployment. Eastside for All provides links to a number of local organizations who provide support and resources. <https://eastsideforall.org/covid/lgbtqia/>

42% of LGBTQIA+ adults also identify as a person of color. When intersected, these identities reveal disparate impacts when it comes to participation in the juvenile justice system, youth homelessness, unemployment, and long-term health issues. Such disparities lead to higher levels of chronic stress and overall disparate health, social, and economic outcomes.

Individuals who identify as transgender are more likely to experience additional barriers when it comes to basic needs and civil rights. This past year there has been an influx of anti-transgender legislation in the U.S, targeting gender-affirming healthcare. In addition, violence against transwomen, especially transwomen of color increased in 2020, with 44 people losing their lives to violence. Their stories are often unreported or misreported, impacting how we share their stories.

There are many online resources available. Local organizations are highlighted below. Support for LGBTQIA+ young people is available at [www.lamberthouse.org](http://www.lamberthouse.org) Support for friends and families of LGBTQIA+ is available at [www.pflagbellevue.org](http://www.pflagbellevue.org) Support for those exploring gender identity is available at [www.genderdiversity.org](http://www.genderdiversity.org) Support for LGBTQIA+ older adults is available at <https://genprideseattle.org/>

The Eastside supports organizations that create safe spaces where members of the LGBTQIA+ community can connect with resources, support, education, and advocacy.

Diana Zhang with Eastside Pride PNW will accept the Pride Month proclamation on behalf of their organization, its members, and the LGBTQIA+ community.



## A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

### Proclaiming June 2021 as “Pride Month” in Kirkland, Washington

**WHEREAS**, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual people are our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who are part of and 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 LGBTQIA+ people has been hard-fought in the streets and courts of this country; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect the health of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, pride events across the country, like most other large gatherings, have been cancelled or are being held virtually, resulting in the need to ensure that Pride Month, and the ongoing fight for dignity and equality, is not forgotten in the midst of these challenging times; and

**WHEREAS** it is imperative that young people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and community leaders;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, on behalf of the City Council, and in honor of the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as “Pride Month” in Kirkland, Washington, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual members of our community, and as an affirmation of the City’s commitment to protect and serve everyone who resides, works, or visits Kirkland without discrimination, as well as its belief in the dignity, equality, and civil rights of all people.

Signed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2021

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Penny Sweet, Mayor