



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 · 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager
Date: May 26, 2022
Subject: Pride Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim June 2022 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+).

Pride Flag and Progress Flag

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 named 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 53rd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the Progress flag will fly over City Hall, all fire stations, and in Marina Park to affirm the City's commitment to be a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community against violence and discrimination. The City will also be sharing stories of notable people in the LGBTQIA+ Civil Rights Movement on social media throughout the month.

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.

Although such strides towards equality have been made by the City and other government entities, there has also been an increase of anti-transgender legislation in the U.S., which has caused increased stress and concern amongst the LGBTQIA+ community. Below are several local organizations that can provide support our LGBTQIA+ community:

- Support for LGBTQIA+ young people is available at www.lamberthouse.org
- Support for friends and families of LGBTQIA+ is available at www.pflagbellevue.org
- Support for those exploring their gender identity is available at www.genderdiversity.org
- Support for LGBTQIA+ older adults is available at <https://genprideseattle.org/>

Representatives from Eastside Pride 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 2022 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland

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

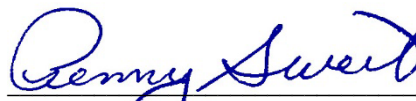
WHEREAS, in 2017 the City of Kirkland added a new chapter 3.18 to the Kirkland Municipal Code related to sustaining a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community for all residents regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military status,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

WHEREAS, links to stories about and resources for LGBTQIA+ community members are available on Kirkland's website as 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, Mayor Penny Sweet, on behalf of the City Council, in honor of the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, does hereby proclaim June 2022 as "Pride Month" in Kirkland, Washington, to acknowledge 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 7th day of June 2022


Penny Sweet, Mayor