

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in June of 1969, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City defied an unjust policy and stood up to actively resist the harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ+ people were commonly subjected; and

WHEREAS, this courageous uprising was henceforth etched in American Civil Rights history and became known as the Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the modern LGBTQ+ movement for equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is proud to remember inspiring and brave leaders who fought for justice and dignity, as well as the allies who supported them, and celebrate the current leaders forging ahead; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of those historic leaders and in continuing the work for equity, the Alexandria LGBTQ+ Task Force provides an inclusive forum where LGBTQ+ people and allies gather quarterly to network, share ideas, and plan training and community events. Convened in 2007, the Task Force is housed in the Department of Community and Human Services with a membership made up of employees from departments across City government, representatives from community non-profit organizations, and Alexandria LGBTQ+ residents; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Task Force is to create safe and inclusive service provision in the City of Alexandria that affirms a person's sexual orientation and gender identity. The Task Force has trained more than 4000 service providers, 95% of whom agree that they know how to create a safer and more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ people after training; and

WHEREAS, in a time when LGBTQ+ people are among those enduring disproportionately harsh impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a climate where LGBTQ+ people still face discrimination and suffer high rates of violence simply for being who they are, in a climate where LGBTQ+ people of color face compounded violence and transgender women of color are particularly at risk, in a climate where 60% of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it, Alexandria City leaders, employees, and community members will persist in working to create safe and inclusive services and spaces for all; and

WHEREAS, while in some communities LGBTQ+ youth, particularly transgender youth, are increasingly demeaned, diminished, and targeted by legislation, policy, and action; Alexandria City leaders, employees, and community members will support, uplift, and provide a safe, nurturing environment for LGBTQ+ youth so that they can flourish; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is one of 110 cities in the U.S. to receive the maximum possible score of 100% on the 2021 Municipal Equality Index (MEI), a national assessment by the Human Rights Campaign of LGBTQ+ equality in municipal policies, laws, and services. For the second consecutive year, the City of Alexandria achieved this maximum score based on criteria including non-discrimination laws, the City as an employer, law enforcement, local leadership's public positions on equality, and how inclusive the City's laws, policies and services are for the LGBTQ+ community.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria reaffirms our commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ people and strengthening LGBTQ+ rights because they are human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize June 2022, as:

“LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of June, 2022.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk