

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Riots began in New York on June 28, 1969, and are regarded as a catalyst for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer – also known as LGBTQ – movement for civil rights in the United States; and

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that strengthen the fabric of American society, and there are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields; and

WHEREAS, for more than two centuries, our nation has struggled to transform the ideals of liberty and equality from founding promise into lasting reality. LGBTQ Americans have worked tirelessly on the next chapter of that history ~ from the patrons of The Stonewall Inn who sparked a movement; to service members who can finally be honest about who they love; to brave young people who come out and speak out every day; to those who are finally able to say “I Do” regardless of whom they say it to; to individuals whose lives are still taken from us in violent acts of hate, such as the tragic loss of life in the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida this month. Each day, support for LGBT equality is growing, led by a generation which understands that ~ in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “...injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”; and

WHEREAS, June is celebrated as LGBTQ Pride Month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has a diverse LGBTQ community that includes people of all ethnicities, religions and professions; and

WHEREAS, everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence or hatred based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, ALLISON SILBERBERG, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, does hereby proclaim June, 2016 as:

“LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER PRIDE MONTH”

In the City of Alexandria and urges all residents to respect and honor our diverse community and celebrate and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the General Assembly to pass legislation eliminating discrimination and barriers to all residents regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity affecting employment, housing, public safety, policing, health care, education and recognition of family relationships.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 16th day of June, 2016.

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk