

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

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PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** Pride events are held nationwide in June to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community's enduring spirit and the progress that has been made in establishing a more inclusive, just, and equal society for LGBTQIA+ individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town's LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission is in its second year of work to promote equality-affirming policies regarding the full spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities, and to bring greater visibility and empowerment to the LGBTQIA+ population through education and advocacy; and
- WHEREAS:** Celebrating Pride and displaying Pride flags are outward representations of the Town's commitment to full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in all aspects of Arlington's community life; and
- WHEREAS:** Pride exists as an ongoing resistance to laws enacted to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation or gender presentation and to the harassment, violence, and forced disbandment of gatherings by police and other law enforcement entities around the world that those laws have encouraged; and
- WHEREAS:** The most celebrated incident of LGBTQIA+ resistance in the U.S. is the clash between bar patrons and the police on the night of June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City during a discriminatory police raid. This event — largely credited to black and transgender people — was a flashpoint for the gay rights movement. Information about the uprising is available at rainbowarlington.org; and
- WHEREAS:** This year is the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, which is the event the annual Pride events commemorate; and
- WHEREAS:** Police discrimination and violence against LGBTQIA+ individuals has not yet been eradicated, and even in places where the police have worked hard to foster a positive relationship with the LGBTQIA+ community, there remains a rift caused by a century of trauma that will take continued dedicated effort to heal — work

made more difficult when it intersects with issues of race, religion, disability, etc; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Arlington is committed to doing the work necessary to foster healing between the police and the diverse LGBTQIA+ community. This is evidenced by Arlington Police’s community policing policy; Acting Chief of Police Juliann Flaherty’s formal role as liaison to the Rainbow Commission; and department assistance in painting the rainbow crosswalk at Town Hall; and

WHEREAS: Pride is not only a time to gather in joyful community but also an opportunity to reflect on and plan the work still ahead of us — work that includes making all our social-justice efforts more inclusive, equitable, and intersectional; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Arlington bylaw declares that we value the diversity of our population and acknowledges that our Town’s mix of ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds and economic and personal circumstances enriches us all — and sets the goal that we will be known for the warm welcome and respect we extend to all; and

WHEREAS: Incidents of hate and intolerance over the past few years have challenged this dedication to embracing and protecting the wonderfully diverse population in the Town of Arlington; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Members of the Select Board, reaffirm our commitment to equal protections for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression and the ways those factors can intersect to further impact people who are marginalized because of race, color, religious views, national origin, citizenship, age, ancestry, family/marital status, disability, source of income, or military status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we designate June 2019 as Pride Month in Arlington.

_____ **SELECT BOARD**
_____ **OF**
_____ **THE**
_____ **TOWN OF**
_____ **ARLINGTON**

A true record.
ATTEST:

By: _____
Board Administrator