

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, the June 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City precipitated the modern fight for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Agender, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) rights; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 1999, President Clinton issued a proclamation designating June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, and in June 2009, President Obama expanded it to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month; and in June 2021, President Biden expanded it to LGBTQ+ Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, all people should be treated with respect and dignity and should be able to live without fear no matter who they are or whom they love, and each June LGBTQ+ persons and allies, or the Rainbow Community members, come together to recommit to achieving equality; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Community contributes immensely to our society in areas of science, education, literature, religion, government, and sports, and the across the United States, at least 10% of the population, and one in five of young adults identify as LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, over 400 bills were introduced in more than 22 states this year, including the Commonwealth of Virginia, that target the Rainbow Community in areas such as education and healthcare, but also in forms of self-expression and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County was recently recognized by the Human Rights Commission with a perfect score on its Municipal Equality Index, for the County's non-discrimination laws and practices as an employer and service provider, and representation of LGBTQ+ community members and allies in positions of leadership; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2016, OUTstanding, an employee resource group, was formed by a group of County employees to educate, advocate, engage, and build community for LGBTQIA+ employees and their allies, and has since supported the Arlington community through its steadfast commitment to their jobs and the vision of an inclusive community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **June 2023**, as

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in Arlington and call upon all Arlington County residents to celebrate the contributions and significance of the LGBTQIA+ community, and to promote diversity, tolerance, and acceptance in our community and throughout our country.



Christian Dorsey
Chair