

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## Proclamation

### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, and QUEER+ PRIDE MONTH

**WHEREAS**, the June 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City are generally recognized as the catalyst for 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**, each June, LGBTQIA+ persons and allies, or the Rainbow Community members, come together to recommit to advocacy, education, awareness, and outreach in a society that is recognizing new definitions of sexuality and gender under the belief that 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

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2016, a group of County employees formed an employee resource group – now known as OUTstanding - to educate, advocate, engage, and build community for LGBTQIA+ employees and their allies, and thanks to their leadership the Bozman Government Center now has all-gender bathrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rainbow Community contributes immensely to our society in areas of science, education, literature, religion, government, and sports; and here at home, OUTstanding members continue to support the Arlington community through their steadfast commitment to their jobs and our vision of an inclusive community; and

**WHEREAS**, within the National Capital Region, approximately 1.2 million residents identify themselves as LGBTQ+ with 600,000 residing in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ spaces are seeing an increase in threats of violence and the Rainbow Community continues to be targeted in areas such as education, healthcare, art, self-expression and entertainment; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County and its employees persist in their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **June 2024**, as

### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, and QUEER+ PRIDE MONTH

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



  
Libby Garvey  
Chair