



# PROCLAMATION

## LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

**WHEREAS**, June is recognized globally as Pride Month, a time to celebrate the diversity, resilience, and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County takes pride in its diverse and inclusive community, which includes individuals of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and

**WHEREAS**, June commemorates the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, a pivotal moment in the movement for LGBTQIA+ equality when patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City stood up against police harassment and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington County has a strong history of supporting LGBTQIA+ rights, including adding "sexual orientation" to the group of classes protected under its anti-discrimination policy in 1992, and being the first jurisdiction in Virginia to extend domestic partner benefits to County employees in 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, despite significant progress, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face threats, including rising violence, discriminatory legislation, and social stigmatization; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024-2025, our nation has experienced unprecedented challenges to LGBTQIA+ rights, with more than 500 bills introduced in state legislatures targeting transgender healthcare, limiting LGBTQIA+ content in schools, and restricting gender-affirming care, making local protections and affirmations more crucial than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington remains committed to fostering a community where LGBTQIA+ individuals can live authentically without fear of prejudice or discrimination, and where diversity is celebrated as a strength and community value that enriches our civic life;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, does hereby proclaim **June**, as **LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH** in Arlington County and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the rich diversity, history, and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Takis Karantonis".

Takis Karantonis  
Chair