

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING ) RESOLUTION NO. 18-4900  
JUNE AS LGBTQ PRIDE ) Introduced by Council President Tom Hughes  
MONTH IN THE METRO REGION )

WHEREAS, Metro is committed to advancing racial equity to address systemic inequities that impact our communities by providing support and tools to Metro Council, staff, and community partners to create an equitable region for all; and

WHEREAS, equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination are among the basic and inalienable moral rights of every person, necessary for the development and exercise of our most vital capacities and preconditions of human flourishing; and

WHEREAS, June marks the annual recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month throughout the United States, and Portland Latinx Pride Month, both of which Metro sponsors; and

WHEREAS, this month was chosen to commemorate the dedication, bravery, and sacrifice of the primarily Black and Latinx gender nonconforming patrons who led the uprising against pervasive state sanctioned police violence against the LGBTQ community at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village in June 1969, which sparked the modern LGBTQ rights movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded upon and is guided by a set of principles that includes that every person has been created equal, that each has rights to their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, and that each shall be accorded the full recognition and protection of law; yet this recognition remains imperfect and this expansion incomplete; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ homicides increased by 17 percent nationwide in 2017, disproportionately affecting LGBTQ people of color and gender nonconforming people, with 79 percent of those murdered identified as Black or Latinx, and 69 percent as gender nonconforming; and

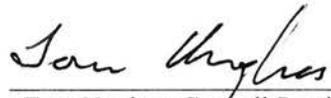
WHEREAS, LGBTQ identities continue to be unprotected in much of the United States, including by the federal government, yet, Oregon and the Metro region have a commitment to advancing protections for LGBTQ people; and

WHEREAS, advocacy for and acknowledgment of the ongoing struggles faced by LGBTQ communities, especially communities of color, must be recognized and maintained; and

WHEREAS, the Metro region is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, religious and gender identities and sexual orientations of its residents; all of which contribute to the vibrant character of the region; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council proclaims June as LGBTQ Pride Month. The Council encourages all Metro residents to celebrate and continue the progress within our culture towards justice, equality and full civic recognition for the LGBTQ community.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018.



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Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:



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Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

## STAFF REPORT

### IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-4900, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLAIRING JUNE AS LGBTQ P RIDE MONTH IN THE METRO REGION

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Date: June 14, 2018

Prepared by: Ernest Hayes, Council/COO

#### BACKGROUND

- June is recognized as LGBTQ+ Pride Month throughout the United States to commemorate the Stonewall riots of June 1969. As a result, pride events are held during this month to recognize the positive impact LGBTQ people have made in the world, and to highlight their continuing fight for equality.
- The State of Oregon decriminalized same-sex sexual activity in 1972.
- Since 2008, Oregon has banned discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on both sexual orientation and gender identity (Oregon SB 2 (2007)).
- State law covers hate crimes based on both gender identity and sexual orientation.
- In 2007, Metro instituted a discrimination and harassment policy and procedure, which prohibits discrimination based upon gender identity or sexual orientation (Personnel Policies (2007) §12.7).
- Metro Council adopted the “Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” in 2016, which states “By addressing the barriers experienced by people of color in the Portland metropolitan area, we will effectively also identify solutions and remove barriers for other groups, like low-income residence, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, older adults and young people.”
- In 2018, Metro activated its first Employee Resource Groups for LGBTQ+ people and People of Color.
- The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs documented the rise in violent crimes against the LGBTQ community in 2017, which disproportionately effect LGBTQ+ people of color.
- Metro Council has the opportunity to stand with other local, regional, state and national governments and organizations in honoring June as LGBTQ pride month to support and bring awareness to issues facing the LGBTQ community.

#### ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition:** None
2. **Legal Antecedents:** On June 23, 2016, Metro Council adopted Resolution 16-4719 proclaiming June as LGBTQ pride month in the Metro region.

3. **Anticipated Effects:** The month of June will be honored as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Metro region, celebrating and honoring the contributions of the LGBTQ population to our region, and recognizing the importance of continued efforts to ensure justice and protections for the LGBTQ community.
4. **Budget Impacts:** None

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 18-4900 proclaiming the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Metro region.