

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING JUNE)
AS LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER)
AND QUEER (LGBTQ) PRIDE MONTH IN THE)
METRO REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 19-4999

Introduced by Councilor Christine Lewis in
concurrence with Council President Lynn
Peterson

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

WHEREAS, we celebrate victories that have affirmed freedom and fairness, and we recommit ourselves to completing the work that remains, 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 directed at the LGBTQ community at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village fifty years ago, which sparked the modern LGBTQ rights movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Metro is dedicated 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 moral rights of every person, necessary for the development and exercise of our most vital capacities and preconditions of human flourishing; and

WHEREAS, recognition remains precarious, imperfect, and expansion of rights incomplete and under threat for LGBTQ members of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Metro, as a large employer in the region, has an opportunity to join and lead the cultural shift in workplaces and create policies that create inclusive, affirming spaces for LGBTQ employees; and

WHEREAS, acknowledgment of the ongoing struggles faced by LGBTQ communities must be recognized and advocacy maintained to continue to advance policies and practices that work to eliminate these disparities; and

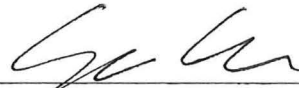
WHEREAS, greater Portland is strengthened by and thrives because of the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, religious, gender and sexual orientations of its residents; all of which contribute to the vibrant character of the region; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metro Council that:

1. June is recognized as LGBTQ Pride Month in greater Portland to celebrate and to recognize our diverse and vibrant LGBTQ community, and continue the progress in our culture towards justice, equality and full civic recognition for all;

2. Metro Council recognizes people regardless the shade of your skin, your size or ability, your gender or sexuality or how you express it, who you love, or how you identify—you will be treated with dignity and respect in all of Metro’s policies, programs, services and destinations;
3. Metro is and will continue to take steps to create safer spaces for everyone--residents, visitors and staff.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 13th day of June 2019.



Sam Chase, Deputy Council President

Approved as to Form:



Nathan A. S. Sykes, Acting Metro Attorney

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-4999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLARING JUNE AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH IN THE METRO REGION

Date: June 13, 2019

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 started its first Employee Resource Groups for LGBTQ+ people and People of Color. The agency also participates in the annual Northwest Pride Festival and Parade, and has a series of new training programs addressing LGBTQ issues in the workplace and community.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have documented the rise in violent crimes against the LGBTQ community, which disproportionately affect 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; a second Resolution, No.18-4900, was approved by Council in 2018.

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. 19-4900 proclaiming the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Metro region.