

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROCLAIMING THE	)	RESOLUTION NO. 20-5111
MONTH OF JUNE AS LESBIAN GAY	)	Introduced by Council President Lynn
BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER AND QUEER	)	Peterson
(LGBTQ) PRIDE MONTH IN THE METRO		
REGION		

WHEREAS, every June marks national Pride Month, a celebration of our nation’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer residents; each of whom must, every day, tend their families, ply their trades, and dream their futures in the face of systemic oppression and historical erasure; and

WHEREAS, although all of these groups face persecution and deserve to be uplifted, transgender (including nonbinary) people face the highest comparative rates of personal and institutional discrimination; including efforts by the current federal administration to strip them of workplace, medical and other protections; and

WHEREAS, transgender people who find themselves at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities – because of their race, age, disability, HIV/AIDS status, or income, among other factors – disproportionately experience poverty and violence; and

WHEREAS, this is most pointedly and tragically true of black transwomen, who made up over 90% of the transgender people killed in the US in the past year; and

WHEREAS, Metro recognizes that, because of the reasons just given, truly honoring greater Portland’s transgender people is impossible without first ensuring that they are safe, welcome, and fully included within its spaces; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of its goal to create such spaces, Metro is currently assessing its policies and work culture for their impacts on transgender people, and developing new policies that establish gender-inclusive language as a workplace standard; and

WHEREAS, these examples do not represent an end goal, but the first steps towards organizational change that will ultimately benefit our agency’s entire LGBTQ community; one informed by a recognition of the differing needs of that vibrant community’s diverse members; and

WHEREAS, as it recommits itself to this work moving forward, Metro would like to acknowledge what pioneering activists like Marsha P. Johnson and Úmi Vera have always known: that every just action taken on behalf of our most oppressed populations confirms, and affirms, the possibility of justice for us all; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metro Council recognizes June to be LGBTQ Pride Month in greater Portland,

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

Approved as to Form:

*Carrie MacLaren*



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Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

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Lynn Peterson, Council President

## **STAFF REPORT**

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-5111, FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER AND  
QUEER (LGBTQ) PRIDE MONTH

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Department: Council Office  
Meeting Date: June 11, 2020

Prepared by: Andre Bealer, Council  
Office

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### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Metro Council has an opportunity to stand with residents, community partners and local jurisdictions in our region by adopting Resolution No. 20-5111, in recognizing the month of June as Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consideration and vote on Resolution No. 20-5111.

### **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Advancing the Metro Council's proclamation for LGBTQ Pride Month from June 1 to June 30.

### **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

Council adoption of this resolution will further Metro's commitment to the goals stated in the Strategic Plan to advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends the Metro Council adopt Resolution No. 20-5111.

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Known Opposition/support/community feedback**

No opposition known at this time.

#### **2. Legal Antecedents**

Metro Council has adopted similar resolutions the previous 3 years.

#### **3. Anticipated effects**

None.

#### **4. Financial implications**

None.

## **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.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.