

Adopted June 16, 2020

City of Mount Rainier, Maryland

Resolution 11-2020: A Resolution Designating the month of June as “Pride Month” in The City of Mount Rainier and Directing that the Pride and Transgender Flag Be Flown at City Hall annually in the month of June.

Introduced By: Councilmember Celina Benitez

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier strives to be a place where all residents and visitors feel accepted and welcome; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Rainier has a diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) community, which contributes to the enrichment of the City, and the City is committed to supporting visibility, dignity, and equity for all people in the community; and

WHEREAS, cities across the United States recognize June as a month for LGBTQ persons and their families and allies to celebrate pride, historical awareness and civil protest; and

WHEREAS, in the current political climate, it is crucial to advocate for inclusivity, equality, and respect for all people, and particularly for those who are marginalized, discriminated against, and targeted for abusive or malicious behavior; and

WHEREAS, the Rainbow Flag, also known as the Pride Flag, which flew at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade celebration on June 25, 1978, has served ever since as a symbol of LGBTQ pride and civil rights movements flown in various cities; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, legalized it in all fifty states, and required states to honor out-of-state same-sex marriage licenses in the case Obergefell v. Hodges.

WHEREAS, June 28, 2019 was the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, when patrons of a New York City gay bar called Stonewall Inn fought back against police raids, sparking a larger protest, a pivotal point leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern LGBTQ rights movement in the United States and has empowered human rights movements around the world.

WHEREAS, the Pulse attack was, at the time, the deadliest mass shooting in the modern history of the United States and is the worst terrorist attack on United States soil since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, many of the residents, students, city employees, business owners and elected officials within the City of Mount Rainier who have contributed greatly to the enrichment of our City are a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community; and

WHEREAS, progress has been made with respect to equitable treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons throughout the nation, but there continues to be some opposition against people from this community and around the world, making it important for the City of Mount Rainier to stand up and show support for City residents who are affected; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, the United States Supreme Court ruled that LGBTQ people are protected from Employment Discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which makes it illegal for employers to discriminate and therefore “An Employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender defies the law”; and

WHEREAS, flying the Rainbow Flag throughout the month of June is a public acknowledgment that the month of June has been designated as LGBTQ Pride month in the City and symbolizes the City’s stand on inclusion and equality and its celebration of diversity and support for the civil rights of the LGBTQ community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Mount Rainier declares the month of June as LGBTQ Pride month, recognizes the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally, and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can

live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect, inclusivity and understanding; and

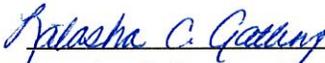
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Mount Rainier will recognize Pride Month by flying the rainbow flag at City Hall during the month of June. The LGBTQ+ flag will be raised on May 22nd through the month of June; and

Be It Further Resolved, we call on our elected official to pass similar resolutions in Support of the LGBTQ community, where there is none and expand legislation in support where there is, **AND**

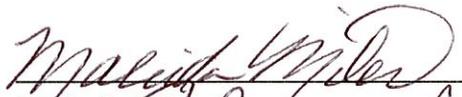
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a signed copy of this resolution will be sent to Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; U.S. Senators Chris VanHollen and Ben Cardin; 47th District U.S. Representative Anthony Brown; Senator Malcom Augustine; Delegates Diana Fennel, Julian Ivey, and Wanika Fisher; Prince George’s County Public Schools Board member Pamela Boozer-Strother; the Prince George’s County Board of Education; and the Prince George’s County Council.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 16th DAY OF JUNE, 2020.

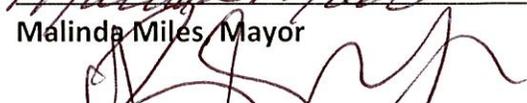
Attest:



Latasha C. Gatling, Interim City Manager



Malinda Miles, Mayor



Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I

Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II


Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II

