

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND
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June 22, 2021

Proclaiming June 2021 “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual or Allied and Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) Pride Month”

The Los Angeles County LGBTQIA2S+ community is one of the largest in the Country, second only to New York City. Our residents and County employees who are part of this community represent a variety of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds, cutting across cultures, faiths, and neighborhoods. This June we acknowledge and celebrate our friends, co-workers, and neighbors who are members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. As we honor and uplift those who identify as sexual/gender minorities and allies, we must also recognize both the history of struggle and resilience that came before, as well as the current landscape, which simultaneously offers signs of progress and regression.

The movement for LGBTQIA2S+ liberation has been in existence for a very long time, though we often point to the Stonewall Rebellion in June of 1969 as its birth. During an era of intense civil unrest, a group of queer individuals, led primarily by people of color, took to the streets of New York City to confront and protest years of harassment by the New York City Police Department.

MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
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While Stonewall is widely celebrated today, other protests and riots actually preceded it. A full decade before the Stonewall Rebellion, Los Angeles community members participated in one of the first queer uprisings in the country at a 24-hour café on Main Street in downtown Los Angeles. The Cooper's Donuts Riot took place in May of 1959, also sparked by relentless police harassment of LGBTQIA2S+ people. When the police attempted to arrest several patrons—transgender women, lesbians, drag queens and gay men—began throwing donuts, coffee, cups, and trash at the officers until they were forced to leave. When the police returned in greater numbers, the resulting confrontation marked the beginning of a growing grassroots movement for LGBTQIA2S+ justice and freedom from police violence.

It is important to understand the interconnecting forms of oppression that continue to impact communities—including systemic racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, and others. Across the country we have seen a spate of anti-trans bills, aimed at doing away with inclusive school sports and affirming, life-saving medical care for trans youth, at the same time that we have witnessed the rolling back of abortion rights and a wave of restrictive voter suppression laws intended to disempower people of color. If we are to create lasting and transformative change when it comes to expanding civil rights, our efforts must be rooted in an intersectional, anti-racist lens. It is in the spirit of solidarity and coalition building that we celebrate Pride and continue to work toward the liberation of all communities.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim June 2021 as “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual or Allied, and Two-Spirit Pride Month” throughout Los Angeles County, and encourage all County agencies to publicly acknowledge this recognition as a signal of inclusivity to the LGBTQIA2S+ clients they serve, as well as the many LGBTQIA2S+ employees that

dedicate their lives to the County of Los Angeles.

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