

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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May 16, 2023

**Proclaiming June 2023 “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning
(LGBTQ) Pride Month”**

On June 27, 1969, during an era of intense civil unrest on behalf of diverse marginalized people, a fed-up group of gay and lesbian bar patrons took to the streets of New York City to confront and protest years of constant harassment by the New York Police Department. That day, known as “The Stonewall Rebellion,” is recognized as the birth of the modern gay liberation and civil rights movement to combat prejudice and discrimination against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender individuals, even though many other protests and riots by LGBT folks preceded it during quieter times. In Los Angeles a full decade before “The Stonewall Rebellion”, a group of LGBTQ individuals participated in one of the first queer uprisings in the country at a 24-hour Los Angeles café. What is known as “The Cooper Do-nuts Riot” occurred in May of 1959, also sparked by relentless police harassment of LGBTQ patrons. In protest of the attempted arrests of several patrons, onlookers began throwing doughnuts, coffee, cups, and trash at the police until they sped away without the patrons in their car. It was the

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beginning of a growing grassroots movement for freedom and dignity.

In commemoration of “The Stonewall Rebellion,” The Cooper Do-nuts Riot, and other early protests in the LGBTQ community, Los Angeles County has celebrated lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) pride during the month of June, starting with the Christopher Street West pride festival in the City of West Hollywood (from 1971 on). Through the years, many other LGBTQ pride celebrations have been established throughout the County, such as the Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, LA/Valley Pride, San Gabriel Valley Pride, TransUnity Pride, One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival, and the Venice Pride Sign Lighting & Block Party. This year is no exception as Los Angeles County recognizes and honors members of the LGBTQ community for their civic involvement and leadership in amplifying an important civil rights message.

Los Angeles County is home to the second largest number of LGBTQ youth and adult individuals in the country, second only to New York City. We proudly welcome and encourage the celebration of people in this community and the vast array of identities, backgrounds, and experiences that they bring with them. We congratulate this diverse and resilient community for its remarkable achievements. In solidarity with our LGBTQ Countywide population, LGBTQ County employees join to raise their voices and remind us that discrimination has not been eradicated. As we recognize and honor the rich history of the LGBTQ community, we must also recognize there is more work to be done. We must continue this effort until there is full self-affirmation, dignity, and equal rights.

The Board of Supervisors has recognized the importance of providing more comprehensive and targeted services to this community. To show support for the LGBTQ+ community, the County will fly the Progress Pride Flag at all county facilities

during the month of June.

We are continuing to assess existing policies, practices, and programs in order to better serve this population and address its unique needs.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim June 2023 as “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Pride Month” throughout Los Angeles County, and encourage all County agencies to publicly acknowledge this recognition as a signal of inclusivity to the LGBTQ clients they serve, as well as the many LGBTQ employees that dedicate their lives to the County of Los Angeles.

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