AGENDA NO.

September 26, 2023

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

"Proclaiming October as LGBTQ+ History Month and October 11 as National Coming Out Day"

LGBTQ+ History Month, which originated in the United States as Lesbian and Gay History Month, is a celebration and observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. High school history teacher Rodney Wilson, the first openly gay public school teacher in Missouri, created the observance in 1994. It is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being LGBTQ+ and to develop a sense of belonging and empowerment for the community. October was chosen to coincide with National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington for LGBTQ+ rights, which took place in 1979 and 1987. Although the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City's Greenwich Village are regarded as history's first major protest on behalf of equal rights for LGBTQ+ people, Los Angeles' own LGBTQ+ activists stood up and fought back against police brutality at the Black Cat Café in Silverlake in 1967, which preceded the Stonewall Riots by two years. Activism and protest continued in Los Angeles City and County, from petition drives and fundraisers at "Ginger Rogers Beach," the historically LGBTQ+ friendly portion of Will Rogers State Beach, to the eventual founding of the City of West Hollywood, which brought together renters, Russian-speaking immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ community to create a self-determined, progressive-looking city. The HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s galvanized an entire generation of LGBTQ+ people, and created a movement that led to marriage equality, among many other fundamental rights, such as the right to family and the right to healthcare.

The Los Angeles region has also created its fair share of LGBTQ+ history makers, in politics, in entertainment, and so many industries. Following the trailblazing path of Harvey Milk in San Francisco, who was assassinated for his political activism and sexuality, Former Supervisor

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Sheila Kuehl made history as the state of California's first openly-gay state legislator, eventually making history for the same on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Other history makers continue to fight for the LGBTQ+ community at the city, state, and federal level, showing young members of the LGBTQ+ community that anything is possible. Our entertainment and music industry continues to increase and improve representation at a critical time when states and municipalities throughout California and the country continue to legislate hate, rolling back the fundamental human rights of LGBTQ+ Americans and their access to education, healthcare, and a life free of discrimination.

Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month is about uplifting untold and under-told histories of the LGBTQ+ community and their unique contributions to Los Angeles and to our society, and pushing back on backwards-facing agendas to erase those histories. The rise of book bans and censorship are extremely disturbing to see not only in optional reading materials found in public and school libraries, but in necessary and critical curriculum throughout American schools. In 2022, we saw the largest-ever number of attempted book bans in the more than 20 years that the American Library Association has been keeping records-nearly double the number reported in 2021. Of the 13 most targeted books in 2022, seven were challenged on the basis of their LGBTQ+ content.

For the sake of our LGBTQ+ community, activists, advocates, and organizations are standing up and fighting back. From legal organizations like the ACLU and community advocacy groups such as the Trevor Project, the community is being supported legally, financially, and mentally and emotionally. Trailblazing organizations such as ONE Institute and California Humanities are standing up vital history programming and curricula, supporting artists, educators, and leaders, with the ONE Institute hosting its inaugural "CIRCA" LGBTQ+ History Festival in the Los Angeles region for the month of October.

For these reasons, declaring LGBTQ+ History Month is more critical than ever. May we recognize the many contributions of the LGBTQ+ community this month and all year long.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

1. Proclaim the month of October 2023 as LGBTQ+ History Month in Los Angeles County; and,
2. Proclaim October 11, 2023, as National Coming Out Day in Los Angeles County; and,
3. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office - Countywide Communications along with all County departments, and request that the Sheriff, District Attorney, Assessor, and Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, to work with The Los Angeles County Public Library and Department of Arts and Culture in promoting and sponsoring their LGBTQ+ History Month related events, programs, and resources, including on respective websites and social media platforms; and
4. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office to work with the Los Angeles County Public Library and Department of Arts and Culture to uplift and encourage attendance to ONE Institute's LGBTQ+ History Festival, CIRCA, happening during the month of October, or LGBTQ+ History Month; and,
5. Instruct the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office to work with County departments, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and relevant community-based organizations, on a written report back in 120 days on an annual countywide event, to begin in October of 2024, that celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month.

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