

Pride Month 2024 Proclamation

WHEREAS, the battle for dignity, equality and personal safety for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning, intersex and asexual people is reflected in the tireless commitment of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as dedicated advocates and allies who strive to forge a more inclusive society; and

WHEREAS, each year, the month of June honors the 1969 Stonewall riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, frequently referenced as the start of the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement in the United States, now celebrated with Pride month events nationwide; and

WHEREAS, it is important to take time during this month to reflect on the LGBTQIA+ rights movement and the important progress that has been made; and

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the tenth anniversary of marriage equality in North Carolina, and the Buncombe County Register of Deeds has had the privilege to issue hundreds of marriage certificates to same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, more than 35,000 of our neighbors in Western North Carolina identify as LGBTQIA+; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey at UNC-Asheville revealed that a third of the students don't identify with conventional binary, heterosexual stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ individuals across the United States, including those who live in our local community, continue to face hate and discrimination simply for being who they are and for who they love and there remains much work to do to extend the promise of our country to every person; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's Non-Discrimination Ordinance enacts protections against discrimination and reflects the community's shared values of equality, inclusion, and fair access, and preserves the health, safety, and welfare of people without regard to certain actual or perceived status or characteristics; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County has recognized the importance of equity for all as a core value in their Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County's Be You LGBTQIA+ affinity group creates a space to share, honor, and celebrate the lived experiences of our LGBTQIA+ employees; and

WHEREAS, as an employer, Buncombe County has the responsibility to provide a safe and inclusive workplace for all employees and be a proud supporter and leader toward LGBTQIA+ equity in Buncombe County. While there is more work to be done, we are moving forward in a spirit of unwavering commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Therefore, be it now resolved that we proclaim June 2024 as Pride Month in Buncombe County.