

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

PRIDE MONTH | 2024

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Riots, a period of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement in June 1969, is commonly viewed as the origin of the modern gay rights movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the LGTBQIA+ movement in Durham is rooted in an April 17, 1981 protest in response to the hate motivated assault of four men at the Little River on April 12, 1981 and resulting death of Ronald, “Sonny” Antonvevitch: Durham’s first NC Pride March in 1986 was organized by the Triangle Lesbian and Gay Alliance (TLGA) and Mayor Wib Gulley’s proclamation of Durham’s first anti-discrimination week in 1986 resulted in him being challenged by an unsuccessful recall campaign, and

WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month raises awareness and provides support and advocacy for the LGTBQIA+ community, and is an opportunity to become educated, engage in dialogue, strengthen alliances, and build understanding; and

WHEREAS, LGTBQIA+ people in the United States continue to face discrimination simply for being who they are, and Durham County stands with this community in the struggle to ensure equal treatment for all; and

WHEREAS, while much progress has been advanced, we know that there is still work to be done to ensure that everyone enjoys the full promise of dignity, protection, safety, equity, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of anti-LGBTQIA+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures all across the United States and progressive officials and citizens must speak up to protect LGTBQIA+ rights; and

WHEREAS, Durham County Government continuously advocates for protections for all LGTBQIA+ individuals in order to make it clear that there is no place in this progressive community, state or nation for denial of human rights regardless of anyone’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, Durham County’s Non-Discrimination Ordinance, approved in 2022 by the Board of County Commissioners, provides freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, pregnancy, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, marital or familial status, pregnancy, military status, religious belief or non-belief, age, or disability in employment and access to all places of public accommodation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Nida Allam, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 2024 as

“PRIDE MONTH”

in Durham County. We call upon Durham County residents to recognize the achievements of the members of the LGTBQIA+ community, and to celebrate and support a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance during this month and every month.

This the 10th day of June 2024

Nida Allam, Chair

Nimasheena Burns, Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter, Commissioner

Brenda Howerton, Commissioner

Wendy Jacobs, Commissioner

