

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH | 2026

**WHEREAS,** the Stonewall Riots, a period of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement in June 1969, is referred to as the genesis of the LGBTQ+ rights movement in this country and National Pride Month is the result; and

**WHEREAS,** the anti-gay assault and murder of Ronald “Sonny” Antonevitch in Durham, North Carolina led to several subsequent social demonstrations, including “Our Day Out,” North Carolina’s first LGBTQ+ march on June 27, 1981; and

**WHEREAS,** this year’s theme, “ALWAYS FORWARD, NEVER STRAIGHT: Preserving History, Coming Home,” as selected by the Pride: Durham, NC Organizing Committee, alongside the observation of National Pride Month, presents opportunities for community members to protest peacefully, to push efforts for justice forward, and to raise political awareness of social issues, and to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals; and

**WHEREAS,** over the years, we have seen strides made to value and affirm members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the work to improve their quality of life by first acknowledging the challenges that are faced in all areas of life; and

**WHEREAS,** despite extraordinary progress, LGBTQ+ people still face various forms of discrimination, mistreatment, and violence, simply for being who they are, and the County of Durham stands with the community in the struggle to ensure equal treatment for all, while also defending and advocating for LGBTQ+ rights as human rights; and

**WHEREAS,** Durham County Government continues to advocate for local and statewide protections for all LGBTQ+ individuals to make our state a place where all people – regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression – are treated with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS,** like many progressive communities, the support of LGBTQ+ rights is illustrated by the fact the Durham County Non-Discrimination Ordinance was approved by the Board of Commissioners to establish protections, to promote the equal treatment of all individuals, to provide freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, pregnancy, marital or familiar status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, language, military status, religious belief or non-belief, age, disability in employment and access to all places of public accommodation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2026, as

**“NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH”**

in Durham County. We call upon the people of Durham County to recognize the contributions and achievements of LGBTQ+ community members and to help to improve the attitudes of society and encourage inclusiveness in and across Durham County.

This 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

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Dr. Mike Lee, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

