

PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING JUNE 2025 AS LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, in the brilliant tapestry of humanity, there exists every color imaginable: each thread vital, each hue necessary; and

WHEREAS, every June we celebrate the vibrant threads of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community that have always been woven into our shared story, even when hidden in shadows; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, a courageous group of Americans rose up to protest violence against and marginalization of members of the LGBTQIA+ community, thereby sparking a civil rights movement for this community; and

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County has a diverse LGBTQIA+ community that includes people of every race, ethnicity, religion, profession and lived experience; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the County's collective commitment to embracing and furthering diversity, equity, and inclusion because it enhances and enriches the lives of all community members and deepens the character of Arapahoe County; and

WHEREAS, individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community have had an immeasurable positive impact on the success and vibrancy of Arapahoe County, the State of Colorado, and other communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, we honor those who marched when marching meant violence, who spoke when speaking meant silencing, and who loved when loving was illegal; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge those who still live in places where being yourself carries the weight of punishment and we recognize your right to exist freely; and

WHEREAS, the fight for dignity, protection, and equality for LGBTQIA+ people is reflected in the tireless dedication of everyone who strives to create a more inclusive society; and

WHEREAS, during the month of June, residents and staff of Arapahoe County acknowledge that Pride is not merely a celebration: it is a declaration that love in all its expressions deserves to exist and is the affirmation that gender in all its diversity deserves recognition. It is the promise that no one should walk through this life carrying the burden of shame for who they truly are.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2025 as **LGBTQIA+ Pride Month** not simply as a remembrance of how far we've come, but as a beacon guiding us toward the more perfect union we must continue to build.

Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully

Came Waven - Gylly

Commissioner Jessica Campbell

Commissioner Leslie Summey

Chair of the Board

Commissioner Rhonda Fields

Commissioner Jeff Baker Chair Pro Tem