

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 23-08-08-06

In the Matter of Acknowledging Pride Month to Further Support Our Vision Where Lane County is the Best County in Which All Can Live, Work, and Play.

WHEREAS, the Pride Month celebration commemorates the courageous individuals who ignited the Stonewall Riots of 1969, a pivotal moment in the LGBTQIA2S+ rights movement, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Oregon legislature passed SB 577, which updated Oregon's bias crime laws (formerly called intimidation), defined the new legal term bias incidents, created a victim-centered response hotline for reporting bias, required law enforcement to refer all victims of bias incidents to support services, and streamlined data collection about bias occurring in Oregon.

WHEREAS, recent data from the FBI reveals that Oregon ranks eighth in the nation for the highest number of anti-LGBTQIA2S+ hate crimes, with an alarming increase since 1996, and these hate crimes have had a profound negative impact on the LGBTQIA2S+ population, impeding their ability to enjoy the same quality of life as their fellow community members, and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Suicide report from 2000-2020 highlights the immense challenges faced by LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, including discrimination, rejection, fear, and harassment, which have detrimental effects on their mental health and overall well-being, and

WHEREAS, the experiences of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are shaped not only by their sexual orientation or gender identity, but also by the intersecting factors of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and more, and

WHEREAS, the goal is to build a community where every person can live authentically, thrive, and be embraced for who they are, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Board of County Commissioners to promote justice, compassion, love, acceptance, and understanding in Lane County, and

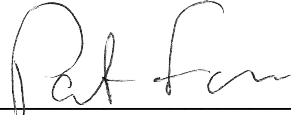
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners requested to codify the statement acknowledging Pride Month presented at the June 6, 2023, Board meeting, and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The Board of County Commissioners seeks to demonstrate our commitment toward building more equitable outcomes for all community members, affirm and care for all community members, and both uphold and recommunicate our stated values by formally supporting the Pride Month statement attached as Attachment A.

2. The Board of County Commissioners commits to reviewing the Department of Justice Bias Hotline Data on an annual basis.

ADOPTED this 8th day of August, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Farr", is written above a horizontal line.

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Pride 2023 Board of County Commissioners Statement

As we gather here today to commemorate Pride Month, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound significance of this celebration. Pride Month traces its roots back to the brave individuals who sparked the Stonewall Riots of 1969, a pivotal moment in the LGBTQIA2S+ rights movement. Their courageous resistance against injustice and discrimination paved the way for progress, ushering in an era that recognized the fundamental human rights of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

While we acknowledge the indelible legacy of the LGBTQIA2S+ community and their tireless advocacy, we must also confront the harsh reality that much work remains ahead of us. Recent data from the FBI unveils a troubling truth – Oregon ranks eighth in the nation for the highest number of anti-LGBTQIA2S+ hate crimes, with a distressing increase of over a third since 1996. These hate crimes have inflicted a profound toll on the LGBTQIA2S+ population, hindering their ability to experience the same quality of life as their fellow community members. Our own Lane County Suicide report from 2000-2020 serves as a poignant reminder of the immense challenges faced by LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. The discrimination, rejection, fear, and harassment they endure have deeply detrimental effects on their mental health and overall well-being.

To truly honor Pride Month, we must go beyond acknowledgment and take meaningful action. This starts with fostering a culture of belonging that embraces diversity and rejects "othering." By doing so, we can create a stronger community that cherishes the inherent value of every individual. Additionally, we remain dedicated to fighting for transgender equality, recognizing the unique challenges they face. We must amplify their voices, break down barriers, and ensure our county is an inclusive haven for all. Within our organization and services, we persist in championing gender-affirming care. By recognizing and respecting transgender and non-binary identities, we create an environment where they feel genuinely supported. Studies show that gender-affirming care saves lives by promoting mental well-being among gender-diverse populations.

Finally, let us also approach our work with a lens of intersectionality, which is the term to describe people's overlapping identities and experiences. It is vital to acknowledge that the experiences of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals are shaped not only by their sexual orientation or gender identity but also by the intersecting factors of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and more.

Let's embrace this opportunity to celebrate LGBTQIA2S+ visibility while remaining acutely aware of the persistent challenges that lie ahead. Together, let us build a community where every person can live authentically, thrive, and be embraced for who they are. May we stand united in our pursuit of a more just, compassionate Lane County, where love, acceptance, and understanding prevail.