

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-4999, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLARING JUNE AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH IN THE METRO REGION

Date: June 13, 2019

Prepared by: Ernest Hayes, Council/COO

BACKGROUND

June is recognized as LGBTQ+ Pride Month throughout the United States to commemorate the Stonewall riots of June 1969. As a result, pride events are held during this month to recognize the positive impact LGBTQ people have made in the world, and to highlight their continuing fight for equality.

The State of Oregon decriminalized same-sex sexual activity in 1972.

Since 2008, Oregon has banned discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on both sexual orientation and gender identity (Oregon SB 2 (2007)).

State law covers hate crimes based on both gender identity and sexual orientation.

In 2007, Metro instituted a discrimination and harassment policy and procedure, which prohibits discrimination based upon gender identity or sexual orientation (Personnel Policies (2007) §12.7).

Metro Council adopted the “Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” in 2016, which states “By addressing the barriers experienced by people of color in the Portland metropolitan area, we will effectively also identify solutions and remove barriers for other groups, like low-income residence, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, older adults and young people.”

In 2018, Metro started its first Employee Resource Groups for LGBTQ+ people and People of Color. The agency also participates in the annual Northwest Pride Festival and Parade, and has a series of new training programs addressing LGBTQ issues in the workplace and community.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have documented the rise in violent crimes against the LGBTQ community, which disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ people of color.

Metro Council has the opportunity to stand with other local, regional, state and national governments and organizations in honoring June as LGBTQ pride month to support and bring awareness to issues facing the LGBTQ community.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. **Known Opposition:** None
2. **Legal Antecedents:** On June 23, 2016, Metro Council adopted Resolution 16-4719 proclaiming June as LGBTQ pride month in the Metro region; a second Resolution, No.18-4900, was approved by Council in 2018.

3. **Anticipated Effects:** The month of June will be honored as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Metro region, celebrating and honoring the contributions of the LGBTQ population to our region, and recognizing the importance of continued efforts to ensure justice and protections for the LGBTQ community.

4. **Budget Impacts:** None

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that Council adopt Resolution No. 19-4900 proclaiming the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Metro region.