



Recognizing June 2022 as PRIDE Month

WHEREAS, the movement toward equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) people was born on June 28, 1969 in New York City from the events of the Stonewall Uprising; and

WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this promise has been long in coming for the LGBTQ+ community and LGBTQ+ people, simply for being who they are and for who they love, continue to face discrimination, harassment, hate crimes, hate speech, violence, disparities in healthcare, housing and employment, and the denial of basic human rights; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community continues to be vulnerable to violence, homelessness and death; and in recognition of the fact that LGBTQ+ youth are at a much greater risk of suicide than their peers and, further, that the UCLA Williams Institute indicates sexual minority adults are twice as likely as the general population to have experienced homelessness in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community has had immeasurable positive impact to the cultural, civic, and economic successes of our country and city; and

WHEREAS, the landmark Supreme Court decision of 2015 guaranteeing marriage equality in all 50 States was a historic victory for the LGBTQ+ community, and continues to affirm our belief that we are all more free when we are treated as equals; and

WHEREAS, in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, more members of the LGBTQ+ community are living their lives openly today than ever before and while the LGBTQ+ rights movement has achieved great progress, there is more work to be done by all of us to extend the promise of our country to every person, for all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and should be free to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, and violence; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Equity Council will host the second Monroe PRIDE event on Sunday, June 12, 2022, an event that honors the worth and value of every human being; and

WHEREAS, *Imagine Monroe* aspires that our community is and will be a "safe place, where everyone feels at home and where everyone belongs."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize the month of June 2022 as

PRIDE Month

AND, I call upon everyone to:

Listen to voices of the LGBTQ+ community, who contribute to the communities we live in today,

Honor the legacy of the LGBTQ+ rights movement,

Acknowledge the injustices that have injured and continue to injure the LGBTQ+ community, both today and within our nation's history,

Condemn and confront prejudice, bigotry, and violence against our LGBTQ+ neighbors,

Eliminate prejudice wherever it exists and **promote** our unity and diversity, and

Love our neighbors by working to and realizing liberty and justice for all people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor