



## ***Recognizing June 2023 as PRIDE Month***

**WHEREAS**, one of the principles that our nation was founded upon is equality for all people and our nation has been building on the fulfillment of this principle for LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning) Americans, and

**WHEREAS**, throughout history and still today, LGBTQ+ Americans have been excluded from realizing equal rights and have been faced with discrimination, prejudice, hate speech, and violence; and many LGBTQ+ Americans hide their true selves from friends, family, and others out of concern for their own safety and to avoid discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the movement toward equality for LGBTQ+ Americans was born on June 28, 1969 in New York City following the Stonewall Uprising, and because of the strong dedication of the LGBTQ+ Rights Movement, more LGBTQ+ Americans are living their lives openly today than ever; and

**WHEREAS**, while the LGBTQ+ Rights Movement has achieved progress, there is more work to be done by each of us to realize equality for 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**, LGBTQ+ Americans have enhanced the cultural, civic, and economic successes of our country and city; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, the month of June is commonly recognized as "PRIDE Month" and is a time to learn about, commemorate, and celebrate LGBTQ+ Americans in our Monroe community, and the Monroe Equity Community will host "Monroe PRIDE" on Sunday, June 11, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the term "PRIDE," as it applies to PRIDE Month, is used to affirm that LGBTQ+ Americans should be confident and secure in openly being their true selves with their family, friends, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Progress PRIDE Flag" is flown at many city, county, state, and federal buildings during PRIDE Month to express support for LGBTQ+ Americans to openly be their true selves; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Monroe's vision is that our community is a safe place for all, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong, including LGBTQ+ Americans, and the City of Monroe sees and will openly stand with our LGBTQ+ neighbors, businesses owners, and visitors.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize the month of June 2023 as

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**AND**, I encourage residents, business owners, employers, and visitors to learn more about LGBTQ+ Americans, to take steps to be more inclusive in accepting and supporting our LGBTQ+ neighbors, and to take part in Monroe PRIDE on June 11, 2023; and

**AND**, as an expression of Monroe's support of our LGBTQ+ neighbors, business owners, and visitors, I do hereby direct the flying of the Progress PRIDE Flag at the City of Monroe's Municipal Campus beginning on Friday, June 9 until Monday, June 12, which is during the weekend of Monroe PRIDE.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas".

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor