

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY, CHAIR  
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE CHAIR  
JOHN V. HURD  
LENARD T. DIGGINS  
ERIC D. HELMUTH



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
TELEPHONE  
781-316-3020  
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS:** the month of June is recognized nationally as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month to commemorate the uprising by transgender and other LGBTQIA+ people against on-going harassment and abuse by New York City police at the Stonewall Inn in 1969 which marked the beginning of the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement; and

**WHEREAS:** that uprising was one of many acts of resistance to the enforcement of unjust laws and the local-, state-, and federally-sanctioned harassment and abuse of LGBTQIA+ people, transgender and gender diverse people, Black people, Hispanic/Latino people, Asian people, Indigenous people, women, and antiwar and pro-Democracy activists; and

**WHEREAS:** political demonstrations, legislative advocacy, and social change efforts to create a more just and fair world by all of these marginalized groups defined the second half of the 1960s; and

**WHEREAS:** that work continues today by people of all races, ethnicities, genders, abilities, ages, and sexual orientations, including and especially local chapters of Black Lives Matter, Trans Resistance MA, and the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness; and

**WHEREAS:** deeply meaningful acts by residents of Arlington have contributed to efforts to create a world in which everyone's humanity and dignity is recognized and honored, and these acts include the unanimous passage by Town Meeting of Article 18 on May 2, 2016 adding gender identity and expression to the town of Arlington's non-discrimination provisions; and collecting data about Arlington residents' sexual orientation and gender identity in the latest Envision Arlington survey in the same way that other demographic data related to race and ethnicity are collected; and

**WHEREAS:** Town Meeting created the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission in 2017 to promote LGBTQIA+-affirming policies for all residents of the town of Arlington; and

**WHEREAS:** the town of Arlington was one of only 10 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to earn a spot on the Human Rights Campaign's [2020 Municipal Equality Index](#) and one of seven in the state to earn a perfect score; and

**WHEREAS:** the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission is aware that in Massachusetts LGBTQIA+ people of all ages are more likely to experience disparities in health and wellbeing as compared with their straight and cisgender peers and that these disparities are even greater among transgender and LGBTQIA+ people of color; and

**WHEREAS:** students in the town of Arlington who are homeless are disproportionately more likely to be LGBTQIA+ and the town of Arlington’s 2019 “[Youth Risk Behavior Assessment](#)“ found that “[s]exual minority youth including lesbian, gay, and bisexual high school students in particular are at substantial risk for serious health outcomes relative to their peers”; and

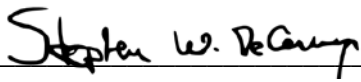
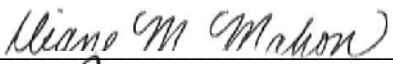
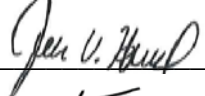

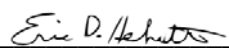
**WHEREAS:** the LGBTQIA+ community in Arlington is resilient, creative, and innovative, and enjoys strong allied partnerships with the town’s Human Rights Commission, Council on Aging, Disability Commission, Commission for Arts and Culture, and numerous other groups, residents, and elected officials that support the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission’s work to bring greater visibility and empowerment to the LGBTQIA+ population through education, advocacy, and collaboration with other Town agencies, schools, and community groups; and

**WHEREAS:** Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, in part, by displaying Rainbow Commission Pride flags in Arlington Center and issuing this proclamation are outward representations of the Town’s commitment to full inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in Arlington’s civic life; and

**WHEREAS:** Many LGBTQIA+ Pride Month celebrations and commemorations this year will take place virtually and online in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to adhere to public health physical distancing guidance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving even greater importance to outward representations of support for the LGBTQIA+ community in Arlington.

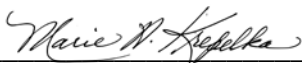
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that we, the Members of the Select Board, reaffirm our support for equal protections for LGBTQIA+ residents of Arlington.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that we designate June 2021 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in Arlington.

 _____	<b>SELECT BOARD</b>
 _____	<b>OF THE</b>
 _____	<b>TOWN</b>
 _____	<b>OF</b>
 _____	<b>ARLINGTON</b>

A true record.

ATTEST:

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Administrator