

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

PRIDE MONTH

Whereas, the battle for dignity, equality and personal safety for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning, intersex and asexual people is reflected in the tireless commitment of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as dedicated advocates and allies who strive to forge a more inclusive society;

Whereas, each year, the month of June honors the 1969 Stonewall riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, frequently referenced as the start of the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement in the United States, now celebrated with Pride month events nationwide;

Whereas, it is important to take time during this month to reflect on the LGBTQIA+ rights movement and the important progress that has been made;

Whereas, more than 35,000 of our neighbors in Western North Carolina identify as LGBTQIA+; and

Whereas, a recent survey at UNC-Asheville revealed that a third of the students don't identify with conventional binary, heterosexual stereotypes; and

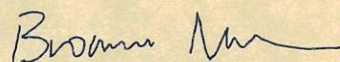
Whereas, LGBTQIA+ individuals across the United States, including those who live in our local community, continue to face hate and discrimination simply for being who they are and for who they love and there remains much work to do to extend the promise of our country to every person; and

Whereas, Buncombe County's Non-Discrimination Ordinance recognizes that it is in the best interest of the residents of Buncombe County to enact protections against discrimination that reflect the community's shared values of equality, inclusion, and fair access, and to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of people without regard to certain actual or perceived status or characteristics; and

Whereas, Buncombe County has recognized the importance of equity for all as a core value in their Strategic Plan; and

Whereas, Buncombe County's Be You LGBTQ+ affinity group creates a space to share, honor, and celebrate the lived experiences of our LGBTQ+ employees; and

Whereas, as an employer, Buncombe County has the opportunity to provide a safe and inclusive workplace for all employees and be a proud supporter and leader towards LGBTQIA+ equity in Buncombe County. While there is much work to be done, we are committing to a better future by showing up as Rachel Macy Stafford once wrote: bravely, boldly, flawed, and full of hope. Now be it resolved that we proclaim June 2022 as **Buncombe County Pride Month**.



Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners