

County of Buncombe

# Proclamation

## PRIDE MONTH

**Whereas**, the battle for dignity, equality and personal safety for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/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

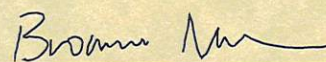
**Whereas**, LGBTQIA+ individuals across the United States, including those who live in our local community, continue to face hate and discrimination simply for being who they are and for who they love and there remains much work to do to extend the promise of our country to every person; and

**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 LGBTQIA+ affinity group creates a space to share, honor, and celebrate the lived experiences of our LGBTQIA+ employees; and

**Whereas**, as an employer, Buncombe County has the responsibility to provide a safe and inclusive workplace for all employees and be a proud supporter and leader toward LGBTQIA+ equity in Buncombe County. While there is more work to be done, we are moving forward in a spirit of unwavering commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community. Now be it resolved that we proclaim June 2023 as **Buncombe County Pride Month**.



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Brownie Newman, Chairman  
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners