

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS LGBTQ+ (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS) PRIDE MONTH IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the month of June is recognized globally as Pride Month, a time to celebrate the diversity, strength, and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month encourages unity, acceptance, and understanding, and stands as a testament to the progress that has been made, while also acknowledging that the struggle for full equality continues; and

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 marked a pivotal moment in the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. The events at the Stonewall Inn in New York City galvanized a movement and led to the establishment of annual Pride celebrations around the world; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk, born on May 22, 1930, in Woodmere, New York, was a visionary civil and human rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977; and

WHEREAS, his election was a landmark moment in the civil rights movement for the LGBTQ community, providing unprecedented hope and visibility; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk served with distinction, advocating for the rights of all marginalized communities and sponsoring a bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which was passed with overwhelming support; and

WHEREAS, his life and political career, though tragically cut short by assassination on November 27, 1978, continue to inspire activism and legislation in pursuit of equality and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth in Mendocino County face significant challenges and disparities in mental health due to societal stigma, discrimination, and rejection; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that LGBTQ+ young people are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers, with the Trevor Project estimating that over 1.8 million LGBTQ+ youth consider suicide each year in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the intersectionality of identities such as race, gender, and sexuality can compound stressors and increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among these individuals; it is imperative that society acknowledges these facts and commits to creating a more inclusive, supportive, and affirming environment for LGBTQ+ youth in Mendocino County. This includes implementing comprehensive suicide prevention programs, promoting mental health education that is inclusive of LGBTQ+ issues, including LGBTQ+ history in the school curriculum, and ensuring access to affirming healthcare and support services. The alarming statistics and the human toll behind them call for urgent action to address the mental health crisis among LGBTQ+ youth and to affirm their right to a future filled with hope and possibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims June, 2024, as:

“Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (Plus) (LGBTQ+) Pride
Month in Mendocino County”

Dated:

Maureen Mulheren, Chair

