



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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June 05, 2024

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

**PREPARER:** Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

**DATE:** May 30, 2024

**TITLE:** **Adopt Resolution No. 234-59 Proclaiming June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Pride Month in the City of Arcata and Authorizing the Rainbow Pride Flag to be Flown on the Flagpole at Arcata City Hall During the Month of June.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council adopt Resolution No. 234-59 proclaiming June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Pride Month in the City of Arcata and authorizing the rainbow pride flag to be flown on the flagpole at Arcata City Hall during the month of June.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

As part of the City's continued advocacy for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ (LGBTQ+) rights amidst the rise of anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-trans legislation, City Councilmembers have requested that the City increase the City's visible presence to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community members through the flying of the Pride Flag during the month of June.

## **BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:**

In 2019, the State of California made a pivotal decision to fly the pride flag from the Capitol for the first time as a symbol of support for the LGBTQ+ community. This was in direct response to the decision issued by the US Administration to ban flying such flags at all U.S. Embassies.

The origins of the Pride movement can be traced back to the Stonewall riots in 1969, which ignited the first pride marches and a rapid increase in LGBTQ+ advocacy groups across the United States. President Joe Biden issued a proclamation recognizing LGBTQ+ Pride Month in 2021. For the past few years, the Arcata City Council has participated in ways to show support and recognize June as Pride month in Arcata.

As part of the City's continued advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights amidst the rise of anti- LGBTQ+ and anti-trans legislation and hateful actions that persist, City Councilmembers have requested that they City increase the City's visible presence to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community members through the flying of the Pride Flag during the month of June.

Displaying commemorative flags at City facilities can raise First Amendment Free Speech issues. This depends on whether the flag is treated as government speech or private speech on public property. Under the government speech doctrine, the City may advance its own Government speech without requiring viewpoint neutrality when the government itself is the speaker, so long as the City does not show religious preference or encourage a certain vote in an election.

This item requests the Council the approve proclaim June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Pride Month and authorizes the Rainbow Pride Flag to be flown on the City Hall flagpole.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:** The City operational budget can absorb the cost of the flag.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A. Resolution\_234-59\_Pride Flag (DOCX)