



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS REPORT**

TO: THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: KIM CARR, MAYOR AND DAN KALMICK, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE: MAY 3, 2021

SUBJECT: **LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH RECOGNITION AND FLAG RAISING**

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**Background:**

Nationwide, over 11 million Americans identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer (LGBTQ). LGBTQ business owners have contributed over \$1.7 trillion dollars to the U.S. economy and have helped create over 33,000 jobs. Despite their growing population and contributions, it is still legal to fire an individual for identifying as LGBTQ in 26 U.S. states; hate crimes against the LGBTQ community are on the rise; and LGBTQ youth disproportionately make up 40% of our nation's homeless youth.

California, a state that represents over 1.3 million LGBTQ residents, has embraced the positive impacts that LGBTQ representation and policies can create. In the past few years alone, the California Legislature has passed over two dozen new LGBTQ protections and elected the largest delegation of LGBTQ state officials in the nation. The State also elected Senator Toni Atkins as the first LGBTQ person to serve as Senator Pro Tempore and Ricardo Lara as the first to serve as Insurance Commissioner.

Locally, several cities including Long Beach, Anaheim, Fullerton and Irvine to name a few have taken opportunities to showcase their support for the LGBTQ community by raising the LGBTQ Pride Flag at their respective City Hall and declaring June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

**Conclusion:**

The Huntington Beach City Council respects, values and encourages all voices. Our City is comprised of over 200,000 residents, and we receive over 4 million worldwide visitors annually. It is imperative that everyone who works, lives or visits Huntington Beach feels welcomed and safe.

Over the past year, the Huntington Beach City Council has taken decisive action to support a community that is diverse, inclusive, and equitable. The City Council has reaffirmed their commitment to a Declaration of Policy on Human Dignity, denounced hate crimes and racist ideology, created community events celebrating diversity, supported the HB Human Relations Task Force's programs and events, and is committed to the Police Department's efforts to prevent, respond and report hate crimes and hate incidents.

In keeping with the City Council's commitment to create an inclusive and welcoming community, we believe it is time to recognize and support our LGTBQ community by declaring June as LGBTQ Pride Month and by raising the Pride Flag, which is widely recognized as a symbol of love, unity and acceptance. If we as a City can espouse greater acceptance and prevent hate crimes through this simple act of solidarity, then it will have been a worthwhile effort for the City.

**Recommendation:**

Request the City Manager to fly the LGBTQ Pride Flag each year from the 3rd week of May until June 30th in recognition of the contributions of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Community; and

Request the City of Huntington Beach recognize the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

