



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Applauding City Council Proclamation of Pride Month

FRESNO—The Fresno County Democratic Party is proud to see the Fresno City Council affirm the dignity and value of Fresno’s LGBTQ+ community and recognize the contributions they have made by proclaiming June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Fresno and committing to flying the Rainbow Pride flag above City Hall. This simple act has the power to inspire hope and create a feeling of inclusion for Fresno’s queer and gender nonconforming communities that will be felt across Fresno County.

We applaud the City Council members for recognizing the need to support and honor the community in a time when anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments are again rearing their ugly head in our Central Valley and city by a small, yet loud and forceful minority.

The LGBTQ+ community, here and across the country, disproportionately face challenges of poor access to healthcare, employment, safe housing and homelessness. Queer youth still too often find themselves socially rejected upon “coming out” and as a result suffer disproportionate and unacceptable levels of homelessness and housing insecurity.

Trans people and especially trans people of color continue to be targeted and murdered. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals still face routine stigmatization and are harassed, called “confused” and even face calls to change who they are, go away or die.

Hateful misrepresentations and mischaracterization of the LGBTQ+ community continue to be perpetuated by intolerant people, conservative media, political pundits and even elected officials.

For queer people, their gender identity and sexual orientation continue to be questioned and discussed in violation of their personal privacy and dignity. Their very lives and civil rights continue to be litigated and legislated.

The local LGBTQ+ community is made up of families of all races and religions: Christians, Jews, Muslims, all faiths and those who practice no religion but choose to live in peace.

The LGBTQ+ community has always contributed to the betterment of our city, to greater inclusion of marginalized people and to serving the needs of Fresno’s most vulnerable. They have added to the arts, culture, business and nonprofit community.

The actions of the Fresno City Council and City of Fresno in affirming these contributions and the dignity of this often marginalized community with a proclamation of Pride Month and by raising the Rainbow flag will send a clear message to the citizens of Fresno, its youth and communities beyond that Fresno is transcending its own checkered past with its LGBTQ+ community. That Fresno is now an open and inclusive city that welcomes all with open arms and equal opportunity. That Fresno is on the right side of history and ready to begin a new and promising chapter.

For more information, contact the Fresno County Democratic Party at 559-495-0606 or dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org.