



**PROCLAMATION
OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
PROCLAIMING JUNE 2021 AS**

“Pride Month”

- WHEREAS,** lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, plus other sexual orientations and gender identity (LGBTQ+) citizens within Dripping Springs are a vital part of many fields and professions that contribute to our vibrant community; and
- WHEREAS,** all people are born free and equal in dignity and fundamental human rights, and no one should live in fear of persecution or violence arising from sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- WHEREAS,** while the tireless dedication of advocates and allies has led to increased support of LGBTQ+ rights by most Americans and the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, the need for community education and awareness remains vital to eradicate ongoing discrimination and prejudice; and
- WHEREAS,** Texan LGBTQ+ advocates like Phyllis Randolph Frye, who became the country’s first openly transgender judge in 2010, have been recognized as national leaders in overturning hateful ordinances at a time when anti-transgender hostility was openly aggressive; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the American Psychological Association, “attempts to force people to conform with rigid gender identities can be harmful to their mental health and well-being”; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, LGBTQ teens in Texas are at significantly higher risk of considering suicide, and research shows that being accepted by family and friends can protect LGBTQ youth from suicidal thoughts and behaviors; and
- WHEREAS,** the success of our community as a whole is largely measured by how we teach and nurture our children, and it is imperative that young people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers, educators, and community leaders; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2016, parents and students in Dripping Springs ISD created the “Many Stripes, One Tiger” community resource to help answer questions and correct misinformation regarding transgender issues in our public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** celebrating Pride Month creates an opportunity to engage in dialogue and ultimately build alliances and understanding; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Dripping Springs acknowledges that inclusion is vital to achieve true unity, and we are thus committed to promoting visibility, dignity, and equality for all LGBTQ+ people in our community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS COUNCIL THAT:

1. The month of June shall be celebrated as “Pride Month”; and
2. The City Council invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to cultivate respect, compassion, and understanding within our beloved community.

