



Neighborhood Council LGBTQ Pride Motion

It is often said that our nation was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this promise has been long in coming for many Americans. Some of the most inspiring moments in our history have arisen from the various civil rights movements that have brought one group after another from the margins to the mainstream of American society.

In the movement toward equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people, a historic turning point occurred on June 28, 1969, in New York City, with the onset of the Stonewall Riots. During these riots, citizens rose up and resisted police harassment that arose out of discriminatory criminal laws that have since been declared unconstitutional. In the decades since, civil rights for LGBTQ people have grown substantially, and LGBTQ pride celebrations have taken place around the country every June to commemorate the beginning of the Stonewall Riots.

While New York's Stonewall Inn is often cited as the birthplace of the movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ Americans, Los Angeles has a long history of firsts on the road to LGBTQ equality. In 1967, the aftermath of a brutal police raid on the Black Cat Tavern, a Silver Lake gay bar, became the impetus for unprecedented resistance among the gay community and the most visible example of the city's blooming gay rebellion. But long before that incident, Los Angeles had been the site of dozens of "firsts" in gay history. It was home to the earliest known lesbian publication (*Vice Versa*, 1947), first official gay rights organization (the Mattachine Society, 1950), first homosexual magazine (*ONE Magazine*, 1953), first gay motorcycle club (the Satyrs MC, 1954), first Supreme Court decision in favor of gay rights (*One Inc. v. Olesen*, 1958), and first mention of a gay riot in response to police harassment (Cooper Do-nuts, 1958).

As evidenced by this list, neighborhoods and stakeholders across the City of Los Angeles have been leaders in advancing the civil rights of their LGBTQ stakeholders. And while further progress is needed, it is important to recognize and celebrate the substantial gains that have been achieved.

Be it resolved that the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council recognizes June 2020 as "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Pride Month" and will continue to advocate for equality for all of our stakeholders throughout the year.

