CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, the fight for equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people is reflected in the unwavering dedication of those who work to build a more inclusive society; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, NY; the Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, every June, communities across the United States celebrate the contributions of LGBTQ- identified people and commemorate those individuals who fight to secure equality, who experienced discrimination and have historically been disenfranchised of rights afforded to other Americans; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month influences awareness and provides support and advocacy for Costa Mesa's LGBTQ community, and is an opportunity to take action and engage in dialogue to strengthen alliances, build acceptance and advance equal rights; and

WHEREAS, the rainbow flag is widely recognized as a symbol of pride, inclusion, and support for social movements that advocate for LGBTQ people in society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa proudly raises the rainbow flag every year from May 22-June 30 in support of the Costa Mesa LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ community is an integral part of the vibrant culture and climate of the City and has had a significant impact on history locally, nationally, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Costa Mesa is committed to diversity and prevention of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the LGBTQ community has the right to feel safe and not live in fear, and are an important part of the Costa Mesa family; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa is committed to equality, and the month of June is an opportunity to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals have had and will continue to have on our city and nation; and a time to reflect on the progress that has been made while focusing on the steps that can still be taken to eliminate prejudice and exclusion, celebrate diversity, and create a more inclusive society for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2023 as **Pride Month** in support of the LGBTQ community, the City of Costa Mesa cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom.

DATED this 6th day of June, 2023.

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John B. Stephens, Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa