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June 20, 2023

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HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution recognizing the 22nd of May as "Harvey Milk Day"; recognizing the month of June as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month"; recognizing the week of the annual LGBTQ+ Pride Event as "Long Beach LGBTQ+ Pride Week"; directing the City Manager to annually raise the LGBTQ+ Progress Pride Flag at Long Beach Civic Center Plaza, and light City assets for certain occurrences, as specified; and repealing Resolution RES-17-0055, which previously declared the third week in May in the City of Long Beach as Long Beach LGBTQ+ Pride Week. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to City Council's request on June 6, 2023, this Office has prepared and submits the above described Resolution for the Council's consideration and approval.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

DAWN MCINTOSH, City Attorney

By: Taylor M. Anderson
Deputy City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS: CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH RECOGNIZING EVERY 22ND OF MAY AS HARVEY MILK DAY IN LONG BEACH; RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH IN LONG BEACH; RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF THE ANNUAL LONG BEACH LGBTQ+ PRIDE EVENT AS “LONG BEACH LGBTQ+ PRIDE WEEK”; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ANNUALLY RAISE THE LGBTQ+ PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG AT LONG BEACH CITY CIVIC PLAZA, AND LIGHT CITY ASSETS FOR CERTAIN OCCURANCES, AS SPECIFIED; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION RES-17-0055, WHICH PREVIOUSLY DECLARED THE THIRD WEEK OF MAY IN THE CITY OF LONG BEACH AS LONG BEACH LGBTQ+ PRIDE WEEK

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach recognizes the historical significance of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) community and the importance of commemorating their contributions, accomplishments, struggles, resilience, and achievements locally, nationally, and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, in the United States' the LGBTQ+ rights movement finds its roots in significant events such as the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, which marked a turning point in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach has a vibrant LGBTQ+ community and a rich history of LGBTQ+ pride, activism, and advocacy, exemplifying a spirit of acceptance and celebration and it is essential for the City of Long Beach to acknowledge the historical milestones and ongoing challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community, while fostering an

1 environment of support, understanding, and equality for all residents; and

2 WHEREAS, on June 11, 1999, then US President Bill Clinton declared June
3 1999 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. In 2011, then President Barack Obama expanded
4 the proclamation to the whole LGBT community. In 2021, President Joe Biden declared
5 June 1st through June 30th as "National LGBTQ+ Pride Month"; and

6 WHEREAS, Pride Month is a worldwide celebration that commemorates the
7 progress made in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights and promotes acceptance, inclusivity, and
8 equality for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

9 WHEREAS, since 2009, the governor of California has declared every May
10 22nd as Harvey Milk Day; and

11 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk was a visionary leader, an activist, and the first
12 openly gay elected official in California; and

13 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk's unwavering dedication to equality and social
14 justice continues to inspire generations of individuals, and his legacy serves as a reminder
15 of the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ rights; and

16 WHEREAS, by recognizing May 22nd as Harvey Milk Day, our City can honor
17 his contributions and provide an opportunity for education, remembrance, and celebration
18 of diversity; and

19 WHEREAS, the first known Pride flag debuted at the San Francisco Gay
20 Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978. Gilbert Baker, a friend gay activist and City
21 Supervisor Harvey Milk, sewed the flag to symbolize the value and dignity of the gay
22 community; and

23 WHEREAS, the original Pride flag contained eight stripes, each a separate
24 color of the rainbow plus hot pink. They colored represented sex, life, healing, sunlight,
25 nature, magic and art, serenity, and spirit. While there have been several variations of the
26 Pride flag. In 2019, a version was debuted that included the iconic six rainbow stripes: red,
27 orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet, as well as the colors from the Transgender Pride
28 Flag, light blue, pink and white stripes, to embrace the transgender community; and

1 WHEREAS, most recently, the Progress Pride Flag was created by artist
2 Daniel Quasar as a combination and reimaging of the original Pride Flag. The Progress
3 Pride Flag’s black and brown stripes represent marginalized LBGTQ+ communities of
4 color, community members lost to HIV/AIDS, and those currently living with HIV/AIDS. The
5 new flag colors are in a chevron shape to represent a need for forward movement. The
6 Progress Pride Flag celebrates the diversity of the LBGTQ+ community and calls for a
7 more inclusive society; and

8 WHEREAS, current Administrative Regulation 8-18 (“Display of National,
9 State, and Other Flags”) (AR8-18) reflects the original Pride flag. Changes to the list of
10 Special Flags in Attachment “A” of AR8-18 requires City Council approval. On June 6, 2023
11 directed the City Manager to update AR8-18 with the Progress Pride Flag shows the City’s
12 support of all members of the LBGTQ+ community, including those members who are
13 transgender, nonbinary, marginalized communities of color, members lost to HIV/AIDS,
14 and those currently living with HIV/AIDS; and

15 WHEREAS, in furtherance of the recognition of Harvey Milk Day and
16 LBGTQ+ Pride Month the City Council directs the City Manager to annually the LBGTQ+
17 Progress Pride Flag (Progress Pride Flag) at Long Beach Civic Plaza and light City assets
18 for certain occurrences, as specified, recognizing the LBGTQ+ community and their rights;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, RES-17-0055 previously declared the third week of May in the
21 City “Long Beach LBGTQ+ Pride Week” to correspond with the annual event hosted by
22 Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Price, Inc. which previously occurred on the third weekend
23 of May prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

24 WHEREAS, the annual local LBGTQ+ Pride event no long occurs
25 consistently on the 3rd weekend in May. Instead, this action declares June as LBGTQ+
26 Pride Month, along with acknowledging Harvey Milk on May 22nd. To show continued
27 support for Long Beach’s local Pride event, hosted by Long Beach Pride, this action also
28 requires that the week prior to the annual Long Beach LBGTQ+ Pride event be proclaimed

1 “Long Beach LGBTQ+ Pride Week”, and the Progress Pride Flag is flown and that City
2 assets are lit with rainbow colors; and

3 WHEREAS, by recognizing LGBTQ+ Pride Month, in the City of Long Beach,
4 it showcases our commitment to fostering an environment that values diversity, supports
5 LGBTQ+ individuals, and promotes understanding and respect within our community; and

6 WHEREAS, recognition of Harvey Milk Day and LGBTQ+ Pride Month by the
7 City of Long Beach sends a powerful message of inclusivity, equality, and support to our
8 LGBTQ+ residents, employees, and visitors. It acknowledges the contributions the
9 LGBTQ+ community has made to the City and demonstrates our City's dedication to
10 fostering a welcoming and accepting environment for all individuals, regardless of their
11 sexual orientation or gender identity; and

12 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as follows:

13 Section 1. The City Council hereby recognizes May 22nd in the City of
14 Long Beach as Harvey Milk Day to honor and observe the contributions of Harvey Milk to
15 the LGBTQ+ community, to promote public awareness, and to celebrate Milk's
16 achievements to be regarded as a Day of Celebration in Long Beach this year and every
17 year thereafter.

18 Section 2. The City Council hereby recognizes the month of June in the
19 City of Long Beach as LGBTQ+ Pride Month to recognize the historical significance of the
20 LGBTQ+ community and the importance of commemorating their contributions,
21 accomplishments, struggles, resilience, and achievements locally, nationally, and
22 worldwide, which shall be regarded as a Month of Celebration in Long Beach this year and
23 every year thereafter. Further, the City Council hereby recognizes the week of the annual
24 Long Beach LGBTQ+ Pride event as “Long Beach LGBTQ+ Pride Week”, this year and
25 every year thereafter.

26 Section 3. The City Council hereby directs the City Manager to fly the
27 Progress Pride Flag at the Long Beach Civic Center Plaza, and that City assets are lit with
28 rainbow colors, on the following days and occurrences: (1) on or before May 22nd in

1 recognition of Harvey Milk Day through June 30th; (2) during the week of the annual Long
2 Beach LGBTQ+ Pride event organized by Long Beach Pride; and (3) to demonstrate
3 support for any other important occurrences for the LGBTQ+ community and their rights,
4 including, but not limited to, court decisions, passage or repeal of laws pertaining to
5 LGBTQ+ rights. This policy is intended to apply absent a conflicting State or Federal
6 holiday or period of remembrance (e.g. Memorial Day, Juneteenth) or a national or
7 intentional movement or major event; and with exception for significant events, as
8 approved by the City Manager; and

9 Section 4. The City Council here repeals Resolution RES-17-0055, which
10 previously recognized the third week in May in the City of Long Beach as Long Beach
11 LGBTQ+ Pride Week.

12 Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
13 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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