



## City Raises Rainbow Flag in Support of June as Pride Month

Union City has lifted the Rainbow flag up the City Hall flag pole to mark the beginning of a month-long recognition for Pride month. On June 11 at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci will also read a proclamation that calls attention to the history of Pride month and awareness around the current challenges still facing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex, Pansexual, 2-Spirit, and Asexual (“LGBTQIP2SA”) in the Tri-City Area.

This is Union City’s first time raising the Rainbow flag in support of the LGBTQ+ community and it started as a proposal in April from the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci. On behalf of the HRC, Commissioner Melissa Shuen-Mallory coordinated with the Mayor and City Staff to put together details on a citywide recognition for Pride month.

Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci expressed that “It is important that we, as a City, have a strong and visible show of support for the LGBTQ+ community by raising the Rainbow Flag on our City flag pole. I am encouraged by the work of our Human Relations Commission and hope they continue to generate new ideas on ways we can continue to support the LGBTQ+ community in the future.”

Commissioner Shuen-Mallory stated, “As a Commissioner and a Queer woman, I am so proud to see Union City fly the Rainbow Pride flag during PRIDE month this year. I still remember the first time I went to San Francisco and saw all the rainbow flags up and down Market Street. I immediately cried because I was so happy and it made me feel safe, validated, and accepted. I know that raising the Rainbow Pride flag in Union City will make others in our community feel safe, validated and accepted.”

At the June 11 proclamation ceremony, the Intersex & Genderqueer Recognition Project (IGRP), a Tri-City nonprofit, will be in attendance to receive the proclamation and share their organization’s mission to address the rights of people to identify as non-binary on government issued documents. IGRP’s mission is to create legal recognition of people whose sex and/or gender identity are non-binary by engaging in direct legal services, impact litigation, legislation, collaboration, and education.