



PROCLAMATION LGBTQ+ Pride Month 2025

WHEREAS, all are welcome in the Town of Hillsborough to live, work, and play, and every family deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy, accepted and supported; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hillsborough denounces prejudice and discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion, marital or familial status, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month began in June of 1969 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City after Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) and allied friends rose and fought against the constant police harassment and discriminatory laws that have since been declared unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many states and many LGBTQ+ people in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ+ identities while living in secrecy and fear, including under previous policies such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, numerous states have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace (16), housing (18), public accommodations (21), and in schools (25); and

WHEREAS, there are members of the North Carolina General Assembly who remain insistent on attempting to pass legislation that prohibits LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender youth, from living authentic, thriving lives; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough has historically offered support to the LGBTQ+ community by extending same-sex partner benefits to town employees before the legalization of same-sex marriage and officially opposing the 2012 amendment to the North Carolina Constitution defining marriage as being between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough first proclaimed LGBTQ+ Pride Month in 2019 at the suggestion of the town's first out member of the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough became the first municipality in North Carolina to pass a non-discrimination ordinance after the sunset of House Bill 142 to extend vital protections to LGBTQ+ individuals in our town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hillsborough appreciates the cultural, civic, and economic contributions of the LGBTQ+ community which strengthens our collective community and social welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that young people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their community; and

WHEREAS, despite being marginalized, LGBTQ+ people continue to celebrate authenticity, acceptance, and love;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2025 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" and urge residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community and to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice in the Town of Hillsborough.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 27th day of May in the year 2025.

Mark Bell Mayor
Town of Hillsborough