WHEREAS, Each June, the United States celebrates LGBTQIA+ Pride month which started with the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in June 1969; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQIA+ community is a valued and integral part of what makes up the diverse fabric of Travis County; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge that the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face systemic discrimination including restricted rights, social stigma, challenges accessing healthcare, and other basic social services as well as violence against their community; and

WHEREAS, Some individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community who live further in intersectional margins continue to lack the protections for fundamental civil rights and dignity as there continues to be exceptional discrimination and violence against transgender women of color; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the resilience and determination of the many individuals who are fighting to live freely and authentically while laying the foundation for a more just and equitable America; and

WHEREAS, The Progress Pride flag is a symbol of solidarity, inclusion, and acceptance. The six stripes represent an idea that resonates with LGBTQ+ people: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for peace, and purple for spirit. The light blue, light pink, and white represents individuals who are trans. The brown and black represents marginalized communities of color, the black also represents those living with AIDS, those no longer living due to AIDS, and the stigma that they also endure. The arrow shape points to the right to show forward movement, while being along the left edge shows that progress still needs to be made; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the LGBTQIA+ Pride Flag’s new rendition as of this month that was updated to include an additional yellow triangle and purple circle to be inclusive of the intersex community; and

WHEREAS, We are committed to obtaining the newest inclusive rendition as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that flying the inclusive pride flag symbolizes to all that Travis County is a safe space, supportive, and dedicated to standing in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, This Pride Month, we affirm our obligation to uphold the dignity of all people, and dedicate ourselves to protecting the most vulnerable among us year-round, this includes strengthening the anti-discrimination efforts in place within Travis County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Travis County Commissioners Court directs:

1. County staff to fly the LGBTQIA+ Pride Flag at the Travis County Government Administration building, located at 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas 78701, annually during the month of June, as well as during the Austin-Travis County Pride Parade currently celebrated during the month of August, to reflect our local Pride celebrations, and allow any other county building to do so; and

2. County staff to develop a draft procurement policy by September 15th, 2021 for Commissioners Court adoption to ensure all county contracts include anti-discrimination language that prohibits employment discrimination by companies doing business with Travis County on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or veteran status; and
3. The Travis County Attorney’s Office to explore options and draft regulatory proposals for Commissioners Court adoption that reflect the County’s intent to strengthen the protections and enforcement of civil rights within our community, including our LGBTQIA+ community and provide a report to the Commissioners Court by September 15th, 2021, with these recommendations and proposals.

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Andy Brown, Judge, Travis County

Jeffrey W. Travillion, Sr.  Brigid Shea
Commissioner, Precinct 1  Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ann Howard  Margaret J. Gomez
Commissioner, Precinct 3  Commissioner, Precinct 4