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Agenda Item: 4a
Meeting Date: June 27, 2023

PROCLAMATION

OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion as an asset and strength of our public agency, as reflected in our Century Agenda goals and our values of respect, anti-racism and equity, integrity, stewardship, and excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Stonewall Inn riots in June 1969 against police violence which targeted the lesbian, gay, and trans communities in New York City continues to serve as an important moment of U.S. history. Initiated by two trans women of color,

Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, Stonewall protests were led by the trans and gay community for the right of LGBTQ individuals to be able to live safely, openly, and authentically became a seismic moment in the fight for LGBTQ rights; and

WHEREAS, the first-year anniversary of Stonewall in 1970 became the first Pride celebration spreading to several cities before becoming a national and international recognition and celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, two-spirited, and plus (LGBTQIA2S+) communities; and

WHEREAS, the fight for the dignity, respect, equality, inclusion, and belonging of LGBTQIA2S+ communities has been hard-fought in the streets, courts, and legislative chambers for decades and continues today for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and families to be free from the threat of police violence, discriminatory and/or bigoted laws, and de facto discrimination; and

WHEREAS, despite significant progress for LGBTQIA2S+ rights since Stonewall, there are a growing number of laws and legislation rooted in bigotry and homophobia that seek to deny freedom of expression or free speech protected by the U.S. Constitution or to deny crucial gender affirming care or other life-saving forms of care, education, and protections for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. The American Civil Liberties Union cites 491 anti-LGBTQ bills across the U.S. in 2023 alone; and

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WHEREAS, racism, ableism, misogyny, colorism and anti-Blackness, xenophobia and immigration status, homophobia, and transphobia are interconnected and result in continued experiences of prejudice, discrimination, invisibility, marginalization, physical and social emotional attacks, and lack of protections for fundamental rights and dignity in hospitals, schools, places of employment, public accommodations, and other spaces; and

Whereas, a study by U.C.L.A. Law's Williams Institute cites 40% of LGBTQIA2S+ adults identify as people of color and an estimated 1.3 million immigrant adults are LGBTQIA2S+ of whom 23% are undocumented. These numbers highlight the intersectionality and multiple identities that compound the lived experiences of LGBTQIA2S+ immigrants and/or LGBTQIA2S+ people of color who may have fled persecution, the threat of state-sponsored violence, or other forms of violence including sexual assault in their home countries for being queer (LGBTQIA2S+) or survived generations of institutionalized racism and violence; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA2S+ families, and the many different ways they are formed, and what they look like continues to be another arena in the fight for equal rights for LGBTQIA2S+ parents; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is a time to learn, reflect, and honor the trials and contributions of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in the fight for their rights as human beings. Pride Month is an opportunity to commit to solidarity and allyship to eradicate discrimination and injustices for collective liberation; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle celebrates and values its LGBTQIA2S+ employees and community members both during Pride month and year round through the Portwide Pride employee resource group and the Port's Transgender Inclusivity workgroup. The Port is committed to learning from and lifting up the leadership of LGBTQIA2S+ employees and working to make the Port an employer that recognizes the importance of healthcare equity via gender affirming care, and other benefits responsive to the needs of LGBTQIA2S+ employees; and



WHEREAS, the Port of Seattle stands against the discrimination, violence, and threats of violence against LGBTQIA2S+ communities and with all LGBTQIA2S+ families and individuals in accordance with Port values and the belief in equality, liberty, and justice for all.

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NOW, THEREFORE, the Port of Seattle Commission hereby proclaims June 2023 - PRIDE MONTH.

Proclaimed by the Port of Seattle Commission this 27 day of June, 2023.

Port of Seattle Commission

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