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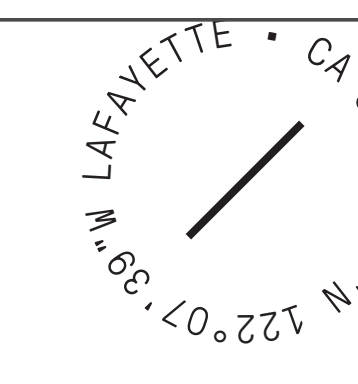
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Lafayette rainbow flag flies to celebrate LBGTQ+ Pride month



Photo Pippa Fisher

A sizable crowd was on hand to watch Mayor Mike Anderson raise the rainbow flag June 1, and officially declare June to be Pride month in Lafayette.

By Pippa Fisher

The city council voted at its May 28 meeting unanimously in favor of a proclamation to recognize June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning + Pride month in Lafayette. On June 1 Mayor

Mike Anderson raised the rainbow flag on the pole in Plaza Park, where it will fly for the entire month. Before hoisting the flag in front of a group of more than 50 residents, Anderson made a few comments on the significance of the event which,

he noted that despite being 50 years since the Stonewall riots, is something "some cities not too far away are struggling to come to terms with" – a veiled reference to Dublin City Council's recent, controversial decision not to fly a rainbow flag (a decision that

was subsequently reversed at a June 4 special meeting.)

Council Member Teresa Gerringer had asked to place a proclamation for council consideration in support of pride month and flying the flag in June on the agenda back at the March 25 meeting.

"I was asked during the campaign by Gwen Searer, a Lafayette resident, what I would do to support the LGBTQ people who live in Lafayette and let them know that they are welcome in this community," says Gerringer. "She specifically asked if I would push to have LGBTQ Pride flags flown in June every year and commit to declaring June as Pride Month in Lafayette."

Gerringer described it as a statement of our values in Lafayette. "It speaks to what our values are in terms of the community and providing an accepting place for all; that we represent all the residents of Lafayette and that we want to make sure that everyone feels welcome and included here," she said.

Searer, a transgender

woman with two daughters who has lived in Lafayette for eight years, described her decades-long struggles with depression before she transitioned. She asked that the city fly the flag "not for me. For the young people in our community who are at risk for bullying, discrimination and suicide.

"Please send a message that LGBTQ people are welcomed, respected and loved in our community," said Searer before the council's vote.

This is not the first year that has seen the rainbow flag flying in June over the Plaza but this is the first time June has been officially recognized as Pride Month in Lafayette.

The Orinda City Council also presented a proclamation in support of LGBTQ Pride Month at its June 4 meeting and will be flying a flag in support of the LGBTQ community. The Moraga Town Council was expected to declare June Pride Month at its June 12 meeting.

City nails down timeline for selection of permanent city manager

By Pippa Fisher

The city council held a special meeting June 4 with Paul Kimura, principal of Avery and Associates, the executive search firm hired by the city to recruit the next permanent city manager following Steven Falk's resignation last year. It is likely that the position will be filled in early August.

Kimura brought all council members up to speed on progress and the process to

fill the position. With much emphasis placed on transparency and inclusion as a city strategic goal, the council has pushed for as much public involvement as possible through the process. The recruitment firm has conducted community outreach over the past few months including a town hall meeting, interviews with members of the community and a community survey, which at the time of the meeting had received 67



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

The council discusses the process for selection a new city manager at the June 4 special meeting.



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responses. Now that the filing period for applications has closed Kimura said that they had an applicant count of 35 individuals. He will be recommending through his own interviews with candidates a list of between 10 and 12 which the council will examine, narrowing the list to potentially around five for in-depth interviews.

The council spent time discussing ways in which it could involve the public in the interview process, while Kimura reminded council members that the decision can only be made by them. "This is the council's decision," he said, noting that it had been elected to make such decisions. "This is one of the most important decisions you will have to make." Kimura explained that a panel made up of city staff and members of the public would be advisory only and

said that he sees the public involved in only about 10 percent of his recruitments.

Council Member Steven Bliss suggested bringing together a panel of community members by reaching out to people who might be interested in serving in such a role for a lottery-style selection of five members of the public. Further details on this will become available over the next few weeks.

Council Member Cam Burks described this solution as "totally fair, honest and transparent."

"I'm proud of what we accomplished tonight as it connects exactly to our City Council Strategic Goal of Transparency and Inclusion," said Burks after the meeting. "Including the public in this process, in this transparent manner, is absolutely essential, and we accomplished that tonight."

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
Monday, June 24, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission
Monday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
Monday, June 24, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us