

**In Recognition of
LGBT History Month
October 2013**

- WHEREAS,** October is recognized nationally as **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month** in order to focus attention on the accomplishments of this community and commemorate its history; and
- WHEREAS,** October was chosen as LGBT History Month because it includes National Coming Out Day, which is observed annually on Oct. 11 to celebrate coming out and to raise awareness of the LGBT community and the equal rights movement; and
- WHEREAS,** this year is especially significant in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions on marriage equality; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the 31 individuals being honored this year as part of LGBT History Month has a Florida connection; Mandy Carter, a social justice activist and public policy advocate, participated in the 2000 voter empowerment campaign in the state to increase African-American voter turnout; and
- WHEREAS,** LGBT History Month has previously recognized seven other people with Florida ties, including author and civil rights activist Rita Mae Brown, who spent part of her childhood in Fort Lauderdale; Troy Perry, who founded the United Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Churches; the late Pedro Zamora, an AIDS activist who brought recognition to the disease through his role on MTV's "The Real World;" and the late Zora Neale Hurston, an author and folklorist who was a principal figure in the Harlem Renaissance; and
- WHEREAS,** the greater Fort Lauderdale area has its own proud and rich LGBT history, including Broward County being the first county in the state to pass and uphold a human rights ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and has since passed ordinances protecting gender identity and transgender persons; and
- WHEREAS,** recently released U.S. Census data revealed that Fort Lauderdale is the city with the highest concentration of same-sex couple households in the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Broward County School District became the first in the country last year to officially recognize LGBT History Month, a step that was soon followed by other of the nation's largest school systems; and
- WHEREAS,** the greater Fort Lauderdale area annually welcomes more than 1.2 million LGBT visitors; offers some 150 LGBT-owned business; is home to one of the nation's largest Metropolitan Community Church congregations, the Sunshine Cathedral; and boasts the Stonewall National Museum and Archives, one of the only permanent spaces in the United States devoted to the display of exhibitions relating to LGBT culture and history.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **October 2013** as:

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do urge all citizens to learn more about LGBT history.

DATED this, the 15th day of October 2013.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

