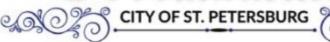
Proclamation



WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day was founded on October 11, 1988 by Robert Eichsberg and Jean O'Leary marking the anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights; and

WHEREAS, Come OUT St. Pete was formed in 2017 to celebrate this annual event locally; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg and the surrounding Tampa Bay communities have continued to be a destination for LGBTQ+ people to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQ+ community adds to the unique fabric of St. Petersburg, creating neighborhood diversity and expanding arts and cultural opportunities, and more; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Central District has one of the largest concentrations of LGBTQ+ owned or managed businesses in the country; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg aims to be a welcoming and safe place to members of the transgender community, especially as egregious hate crimes and murders of trans people grow nationally.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth T. Welch, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2022 as

COME OUT ST. PETE DAY

in St. Petersburg and urge citizens to show support for and acceptance of each other on this and every day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of St. Petersburg, County of Pinellas, and State of Florida to be affixed this 1" day of October, 2022.

> Kenneth T. Welch Mayor

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