

Monthly News & Updates

June 2024 Issue XXXVVVVVVV



Director's Note

<u>oooo (Amharic) | oo (Chinese) | Français (French)</u> <u>ooo (Korean) | Español (Spanish) | Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)</u>

Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends:

As we welcome June, I am filled with pride and excitement to recognize two significant celebrations that resonate deeply with our core values: Pride Month and Immigrant Heritage Month. These observances provide us with a unique opportunity to reflect on the rich diversity that shapes our communities and to reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity, equality, and respect for all.

Pride Month honors the history, achievements, and ongoing struggles of the LGBTQIA+ community. It reminds us of the courageous individuals who have fought tirelessly for the right to express their authentic selves and celebrates the progress we have made toward a more inclusive society. As a government agency dedicated to combating discrimination, we have a critical duty to support and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals, ensuring that everyone can live with dignity and pride. In line with this commitment, we have launched a new LGBTQIA+ Resource Portal and Safe Bathrooms DC, providing essential information and resources to benefit many.

Also celebrated in June, Immigrant Heritage Month honors the diverse tapestry of cultures, traditions, and stories that immigrants bring to our nation. **Recent Census data** shows that approximately 14 percent of the District of Columbia's entire population is foreign-born, highlighting the crucial role immigrants play in our community. The uniqueness and strength of our city are built on the resilience of immigrants who have enriched our lives. At the Office of Human Rights, we address the various challenges immigrants face daily, such as **language barriers** that can hinder access to crucial information and resources. As we approach this month, let's remind ourselves of the importance of learning from each other and continue our efforts to build a community where everyone has a fair chance to thrive.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is not just a statement but a guiding principle that shapes our actions and policies. This June, I encourage each of you to participate in the various **District events and activities** planned for Pride Month and Immigrant Heritage Month. Engage in meaningful conversations, educate yourselves and others, and celebrate the rich diversity that makes our community strong!



In Solidarity, Kenneth Saunders Interim Director

Trait of the Month:



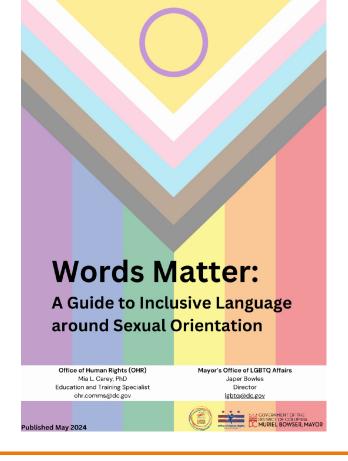
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sexual Orientation is a protected trait under the DC Human Rights Act of 1977 in all four enforcement areas. It is defined as: "an individual's romantic and/or sexual attraction for another person(s); includes relationship types such as aromantic, ethical non-monogamy, open relationships, polyamory, etc. s."

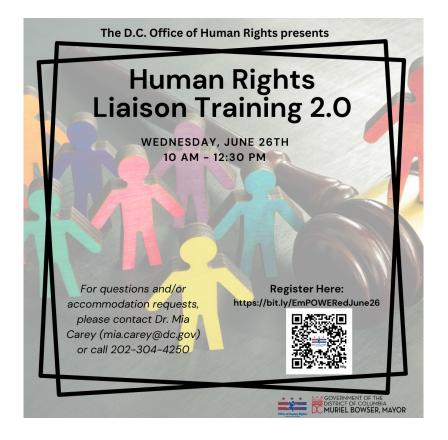
DID YOU KNOW? The Rainbow History Project works to collect, preserve, and promote LGBTQ history in Washington, DC. They created the Places and Spaces social geography database of document locations of importance.

What's New and Upcoming

Our Inclusive Language Guide on Sexual Orientation, developed by OHR and MOLGBQTA, is now available.



OHR Human Rights Liaison Training 2.0



Join the Office of Human Rights to Human Rights Liaison (HRL) Training 2.0! In this training, you will learn more about the role of OHR, your rights and protections in the District, and the complaint-filing process with our agency.

Date: Wednesday, June 26
Time: 10 AM – 12:30 PM

• Register: bit.ly/EmPOWERedJune26

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language assistance, please contact us by phone at 202-304-4250 or by email at mia.carey@dc.gov by Friday, June 21.

DC Events and Observance



MOAPIA 2024 Chinatown Park Festival

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) invites you to the annual Chinatown Park Festival this Saturday! Celebrate Asian cultures with vibrant performances, martial arts demonstrations, and family-friendly activities like face painting, henna, calligraphy, and a clothing swap. Enjoy Asian arts and crafts, participate in a raffle, and explore informational booths from community organizations and District agencies. We'll be tabling at the event—come meet us and MOAPIA!

- Date: Saturday, June 22nd (Rain Date: June 29th)
- Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Location: Chinatown Park 5th and I (Eye) Street, NW



2024 Juneteenth

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. Originating in Texas in 1865, when the last enslaved people were informed of their freedom over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Juneteenth symbolizes the end of slavery and honors African American culture and heritage. This day is marked by community gatherings, educational events, and celebrations of African American history and achievements, serving as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality and justice.



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