

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Austin Davis Ruiz, Communications Director (he/him/his)

(713) 882-5898, austin.ruiz@thecaucus.org

**Houston GLBT Political Caucus Commends Harris County Commissioners Court for
Celebration of Pride Month**

The first Pride began as a six-day-long riot led by Black and Latinx transgender women in protest of police brutality. Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and others at the Stonewall Inn sparked a movement, seeking dignity, respect, and equality for every member of the LGBTQ+ community that continues to this very day. In light of recent events, it is critical, now more than ever, that we continue to uplift and highlight marginalized voices within our community, and we thank the Harris County Commissioners Court for their recognition and celebration of Pride month for the first time in history.

We live in a time where people of color, particularly Black transgender women, are far more likely to experience violence or police brutality as a result of the toxic institutions of white supremacy. Though we have made incredible strides in our movement with the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and the landmark win in Obergefell vs. Hodges, we still have so much further to go as a community. We must have non-discrimination protections guaranteeing all LGBTQ+ individuals the right to employment, fair housing, and public accommodations without the need to hide their identities as queer people. We must ensure that our Black, Brown, and trans siblings can enjoy the freedom, equality, and opportunities they so rightly deserve without fear they will be taken from them prematurely. We must fight social injustice at every turn and put an end to the atrocities we see all too often within our community. In short, we must do better.

As we celebrate Pride month with Commissioners Court, let us not forget those that have championed and fought for the very equality that is at risk today. There is no better way to honor the legacy of the Stonewall Riots than to continue to stand together in the face of hate and prejudice. Together, we rise.

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The Houston GLBT Political Caucus is the South's oldest, civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, it is the largest GLBT political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.