



## COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DCCPD

As advocates for effective public policy, we protect the rights of all residents of and visitors to the District of Columbia, regardless of their physical or mental ability.

### Statement on Pride Month

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

The DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities is proud to observe Pride Month and reflect on the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people in not only our country but the fabric of the District of Columbia.

The Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles has recognized the District as having the highest proportion of LGBTQ residents of any state in the country, more than twice the national average. And the District also has the highest rate of transgender persons of any state, more than five times the national average.

Elected officials in DC have a long history of leading on LGBTQ equality, from legalizing same-sex marriage six years before the rest of the nation to introducing comprehensive non-discrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Through the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, various allied departments, and a fully pro-equality City Council, the District is proud to be on the forefront of LGBTQ diversity and inclusion.

There is a proud history intersecting the LGBTQ community and the disability community, including local advocates, Lydia X. Z. Brown, Charlotte Clymer, Thomas Mangrum, Melissa Malzkuhn and Day Al-Mohamed. LGBTQ persons with disabilities have been leaders on not only issues of disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity but racial equality, health care expansion, gun reform, reproductive access, and voting rights, among other areas. Queer persons with disabilities can be found in every advocacy space leading from the front.

It is that intrepid spirit and integrity that define persons with disabilities in our nation's history and the LGBTQ movement, especially. To observe the radical and raw power of Pride Month is to acknowledge how disability has so often driven the fight for equality and will continue to do so.

The Commission on Persons with Disabilities wishes a reflective and empowered Pride Month to the residents of the District of Columbia and all who visit our home from around the world. Pride is part of our values, and the world shall know it.

#### The Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Kamilah Martin-Proctor, Chair  
Dr. Silvia Martinez  
Travis Painter  
Gerry Counihan  
Edward James  
Mary Wade  
Tiffany Smallwood

Shakira Hemphill  
Jarvis Grindstaff  
Charlotte Clymer  
Jeremy Mann  
Hope Fuller  
Dr. Denise Decker  
Terrance Hunter

The Commission serves as an advisory body to inform and advise the District on programs, services, facilities, and activities that impact the lives of residents with disabilities in the District of Columbia. The Commission is committed to enhancing the image, status, inclusion, and quality of life for all District of Columbia residents, visitors, and employees with disabilities, and ensuring that they have the same rights and opportunities as those without disabilities. To learn more about the Commission, visit [odr.dc.gov/DCCPD](http://odr.dc.gov/DCCPD).