



Media Contact:
Mark DeLancey
SalisburyPFLAG@outlook.com

NEWS RELEASE

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MARYLAND'S ONLY RAINBOW CROSSWALK TO MAKE HISTORY AGAIN ON JUNE 26TH, 2021

Salisbury PFLAG and the City of Salisbury will make history again with the installation of the first, and only, progress pride and transgender flag crosswalks in the State of Maryland on June 26th from 9 am to 1 pm. Located between South Division and Market Street in front of the Wicomico Public Library, the three crosswalk sections - rainbow, progress pride, and trans- represent a unique and unprecedented configuration that sends a bold statement of inclusivity and solidarity to all who traverse its colors.

The City of Salisbury initially made history in 2018 by unveiling the first rainbow crosswalk in the State of Maryland. Installed by more than 60 PFLAG volunteers, with donated paint and materials, the crosswalk brought a celebration of diversity to the Eastern Shore, acting as a beacon of hope for many residents. In 2019, over 100 volunteers turned out to repaint the crosswalk. Two years later, the crosswalk needs to be refreshed as well as updated to reflect the community's further commitment to advancing equality and respect for all residents.

On June 26th, PFLAG will be repainting the crosswalk and hosting a block party from 9 am until 1 pm. Salisbury PFLAG will provide snacks, drinks, paint, and supplies, and there no costs incurred by the City. A number of community partners will be participating in the event including Transliance, the largest networking group for transgender people on the Shore. Drag queen story hour, free giveaways, food trucks, music, and vendors will be part of the festivities.

Rainbow crosswalks act as a monument to LGBTQIA+ people, and more than twenty cities worldwide have added a touch of LGBTQ visibility and pride by painting rainbow crosswalks on their streets. The first rainbow crosswalk was installed in West Hollywood in 2012. Since then, San Francisco, Sydney, Seattle, Key West, Miami, Philadelphia, Toronto, Phoenix, Ottawa, Atlanta, and Denver have all installed permanent crosswalks. The Salisbury rainbow crosswalk remains the only one in Maryland. Located near the banks of the Wicomico River and adjacent to the Riverwalk, the now-iconic landmark has been a

prominent feature during the National Folk Festival. It is also a popular spot for visitors and locals alike and a frequent location for photos.

The Rainbow Crosswalk repainting will mark the last of the Pride Month activities in Salisbury. These events have included the Pride proclamation and flag-raising by the City, the rainbow ribbon public art installation, happy hour, the Pulse 5th Anniversary Remembrance Event, a drag show, meet and greets, and a community dialogue discussion of the Black LGBTQ Experience.

PFLAG is the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) ally organization in the nation. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated, and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed, inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision by providing support for families, allies, and people who are LGBTQ; providing education about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ; and providing advocacy in the community to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

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