



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

INTERNATIONAL PRONOUNS DAY October 21, 2020

WHEREAS, Takoma Park takes pride in being a welcoming, caring, and diverse community that strives to uphold individuals' human right to dignity; and

WHEREAS, just as we don't want assume a person's ethnicity or race by appearance or name, it is important not to make assumptions about the gender of another person based on that person's appearance or name; and

WHEREAS, referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity; and

WHEREAS, being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender non-conforming people; and

WHEREAS, transgender youth are at significantly increased risk for depressive symptoms and suicide. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Williams Institute, 41 percent of transgender individuals have reported attempting suicide, compared to 4.6 percent among the general population; and

WHEREAS, using the correct personal pronoun demonstrates respect and creates an inclusive and supportive environment, just as using a person's chosen name can be a way to respect them; and

WHEREAS, International Pronouns Day seeks to make asking, sharing, and respecting personal pronouns commonplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the City Council, staff, and residents, hereby recognize October 21, 2020 as International Pronouns Day.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2020.

Kate Stewart
Mayor