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## City Hall Exterior to Display Gay Pride Flag for First Time

*In celebration of National "Coming Out" Day in early October, the Austin Chapter of PFLAG will kick-off a month of coming out-themed events beginning with a gay pride flag unveiling ceremony on the steps of City Hall. After a brief program featuring recognition awards and a very special VIP family-member "coming out" story, the rainbow flag will be unveiled across the front of City Hall where it will remain for the first week of "OUTober".*

**Austin, TX, September 19, 2014** – PFLAG Austin announced today that on Wednesday Oct. 1, 2014 at 11:00a.m., it will host Austin's first-ever Pride Flag Unveiling and ceremony on the steps of Austin City Hall. The rainbow flag, a universal symbol of gay pride, will be displayed across the outside of City Hall for the duration of the first week of OUTober, which is a month-long series of events designed to complement, promote, and celebrate National "Coming Out" Day.

The ceremony will include a short program featuring Austin Councilwoman Laura Morrison, Ricky Waite President of PFLAG Austin, and leaders and activists from the LGBTQ Community.

"Displaying the rainbow flag across the front of City Hall can be an empowering moment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Austinites, their families, and allies," explained Ricky Waite, President of PFLAG Austin. "The pride flag is a symbol that our city is supporting us and working toward justice and freedom."

"Austin is an "out and proud" birthplace for creativity, passion, and inclusion, and what better way to convey that message than to display the LGBTQ Pride Flag at City Hall," said Laura Morrison, Austin City Councilmember. "It's an honor to be counted among a city of residents who value resilience, strength, equality, and diversity. We owe it to ourselves, the next generation, and the LGBTQ community, their families, and allies, to continue fostering the welcoming and supportiveness Austin has always been known for."

The Flag Unveiling Ceremony is the beginning of a month-long celebration that includes, among other events, five 'Coming Out' Story-Slams at various locations, a *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* movie dress & sing-a-long fundraiser at The Village Alamo Drafthouse, and a Fringe-n-Fishnets fundraiser at Oilcan Harry's hosted by The United Court of Austin, and a seminar on how to deal with the trauma of someone coming out hosted by the Waterloo Counseling Center.

"This month is going to be a combination of social, support, and educational events all centered around one theme—supporting one another in living authentically and being courageous," explained Waite. "From the Official Flag Unveiling to Coming Out Story-Slams around the city we hope to unite as an entire community with this LGBTQ celebration."

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*Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the original family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, straight allies, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education, and advocacy. Now in its 41st year, PFLAG has more than 350 chapters and 200,000 supporters crossing multiple generations of American families in all 50 states and numerous countries worldwide. To learn more, visit <http://www.pflagaustin.org/>.*