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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT
ON U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING
IN BOSTOCK V. CLAYTON COUNTY

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement in response to today's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*; in conjunction with *Altitude Express v. Zarda*; and *Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*. The landmark 6-3 ruling establishes federal protections in employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity, under the provisions of Title VII, U.S. Code, which prohibit employers from engaging in discrimination based on sex. The statement reads:

"Today is an historic day for America's LGBTQ community. Just five years ago this month, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, gave everyone in this country the right to enter into marriage with the person they love, regardless of each individual's gender. However, the reality was that an individual could marry their same sex partner on a Sunday and be fired from their job the next morning for having done so.

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“With today’s vital decision, the Court has backed up its prior ruling by ensuring that LGBTQ individuals have the same access to equal employment as everyone else, and further affirming under the law that queer Americans are equal to all other Americans and should enjoy the same rights, freedoms and access to opportunity as everyone else.

“We are proud that these rights have already existed for nearly a decade in the City of Phoenix, even as the State of Arizona has failed to recognize and protect these rights at the state level. Today’s ruling should be a loud clarion call to the members and leaders of the Arizona Legislature that it is time to enshrine these same protections in statute, so that we can be a state that is truly open and welcoming to everyone.

“Even as we celebrate this victory, we remain vigilant and aware of the fact that many in our community and amongst our allies, as well as those beyond, still face the harsh cruelty of systemic racism and bigotry. In the face of this victory for human rights, we are committed to securing fair, just and equitable treatment for all people, and we continue to proclaim that Black lives matter.”

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ABOUT PHOENIX PRIDE

Phoenix Pride is the producer of the two largest annual public LGBTQ community events in Arizona: the Phoenix Pride Festival and Parade held each spring in April, and the Rainbows Festival, held every fall in October. Founded in 1981, the organization engages year-round in its mission to unite, educate and engage people and partners to support and empower the LGBTQ community and its current and future allies. Additional information regarding Phoenix Pride is available online at the agency’s web site, <http://www.PhoenixPride.org>.