



## **The Clayton Pride Press Release**

Please join us in honoring Holly Tillman as the 2023 Clayton Pride LGBTQQIA+ Community Ally of the Year. Holly is a fierce ally of the LGBTQQIA+ communities, in particular for youth and the double-marginalized BIPOC populations. Holly’s work to advance human rights, social and racial justice, equity and inclusion intersects with her steadfast advocacy for the LGBTQQIA+ communities. Holly exemplifies Clayton’s motto of “Do the Right Thing” and promotion of Inclusion. Holly’s leadership and commitment to centering and uplifting the LGBTQQIA+ communities is positively impacting Clayton and surrounding communities. Through Holly’s allyship, love grows and flourishes in Clayton.

“Councilmember Tillman is an important ally for the LGBTQIA+ community. Her work with the Clayton Pride Celebration made it a tremendous success. She works hard to advocate for social justice and anti-bullying. I am grateful for her dedication and hard work; this award is well deserved.” --Ken Carlson, Supervisor, District IV, Contra Costa County

“Holly Tillman is a dynamic leader and always pushing the needle for change. Holly’s work is building a culture of greater acceptance and a stronger community in Clayton. She is creating an environment where authenticity flourishes and encourages others to be authentic and be themselves. This starts with strong leaders like Councilwoman Holly Tillman and this award is long overdue.” --Shanelle Scales-Preston, Mayor, City of Pittsburg

“Congratulations Councilmember Holly Tillman! Your unwavering dedication to standing up for the BIPOC and LGBTQQIA+ community, and your commitment to connecting neighbors in the pursuit of social and racial justice, are truly inspiring. As an ally looking up to you, I am motivated to carry the torch with you. Onward!” --Ady Olvera, DPCCC District 4 Director of Clayton, Walnut Creek, Concord, and Pleasant Hill; Member, Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition

“Holly Tillman’s leadership and allyship is inspirational and I can’t imagine a more deserving person to receive the Ally of the Year award! --Laura Nakamura, City of Concord Councilmember

“Congratulations on your Community Ally of the Year Award! So well deserved. Choice in Aging appreciates your leadership and is so grateful to have been a part of your incredible parade. It’s important that our communities and organizations lead by expressing our inclusion in all we do and Clayton has set the bar high! Thank you for your leadership in all places and

### ***Clayton Pride Mission Statement***

*Clayton Pride works to create a city where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual plus (LGBTQQIA+) people thrive as healthy and equal members of society through advocating for respect, equity, and justice, and work to build a culturally rich community for members and allies.*

spaces of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Belonging!” --Debbie Toth, President & CEO Choice in Aging

“They say there is nothing stronger than a mother’s love and Holly truly embodies that. Her love and support of not only her own children but all children, especially those most marginalized, is inspiring. Her fierce advocacy to do the right thing makes our community safer and more loving for our LGBTQQIA+ community. Congratulations on your award Holly, and I’m so grateful our community has you as a leader!” --Rebecca Barrett, Contra Costa Community College Board Trustee

“Holly is about as passionate as it comes when it comes to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community. As an elected council member, I am continually amazed by her commitment to “doing the right thing” for all our town, but especially for those who feel marginalized by the intolerant. Clayton is very fortunate for her service! Congratulations Holly!” --Peter Cloven, City of Clayton Councilmember

“Congratulations to Councilmember Holly Tillman! Holly tirelessly works to support the LGBTQQIA+ community and ensure all are welcome, wherever she goes. Working with her in partnership for social and racial justice throughout the county and region is a privilege. Just as important, anyone who knows Holly, knows they can count on her commitment and resolve to these and all-important matters. She truly deserves this honor.” --Kevin Wilk, Walnut Creek City Councilmember

“I’m so proud of Councilmember Tillman. She is the best example of what’s right in our community. Unlike most of us, when she sees something wrong, she takes immediate and affirmative action to make it right! She makes it easier for all of us to stand up for justice.” --Keisha Nzewi, Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board President

“As a gay father of two adopted sons, I am thankful for Holly’s leadership in making Clayton a safe community for families like ours.” --Jonathan H. X. Lee, Ph.D., Professor of Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University & Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa Board member

“As a proud mother of three children with two self-identifying as LGBTQIA+, I am grateful to Holly for working tirelessly to create a place where my kids can feel love and be appreciated for who they are. Thank you, Holly, from one Momma Bear to another.” --Rebecca Nolen, Clayton Resident and Mama Bear

“We are so fortunate to have Holly as an unwavering ally and City Councilmember. As a parent of a queer child, I am so thankful that Holly is setting the sample for acceptance and love for Clayton’s youth. Holly has always been a positive influence while volunteering for so many youth programs over the years and our family is truly grateful for all that she has done and will continue to do.” --Teena Hahn, Clayton resident & Free Mom Hugs

“I’ve worked alongside Holly with Clayton Speaks and Clayton Pride. The prior initiative focused on projects relating to challenging our community’s social norms about how we view

topics such as race, LGBTQ+ equality and Asian hate following the onset of the pandemic, and the former seeks to support our LGBTQ+ community in our City. Holly understands the need for grassroots work across the full age spectrum and human experiences and she seeks out leadership in these diverse opportunities to create long-term sustainable change. Holly exhibits the characteristics of a true leader who understands and embraces the need to raise awareness and uplift communities facing systemic oppression. She is truly a special leader for our Clayton community.” --Terri Denslow, President of Clayton Pride & Supporting Member of Clayton Speaks Community Initiative

“Congratulations to Holly Tillman, on this well-deserved recognition of her tireless work in our community and schools to build loving, inclusive places where everyone can thrive.” --Cherise Khaund, Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board member

“Holly Tillman has been a strong advocate for doing the right thing with LOVE for as long as I have known her. Never did I think Clayton would be hosting a Pride parade. With leadership like Holly’s there is so much hope!” --Misha Safran (she/they), PCC, MA, Founder and CCEQ, Center for Empathy and Emotional Intelligence, LLC

“I am a straight parent of straight kids but an ally to the LGBTQ+ community and on the Clayton Pride Parade Committee. One of my children, who was bullied throughout his childhood, said that having the Clayton Pride Parade is undoubtedly the beginning of acceptance for all. Our family appreciates the hard work, dedication, and positivity that Holly Tillman has poured into our little community.” --Anonymous

“Holly Tillman has been the premier leader in Clayton for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its forms for over two decades. Congratulations on a well-deserved award.”  
--Amy Hines-Shaikh, Co-founder and partner, Wild Cat Consulting

A celebration and award ceremony will be held in the near future. Details TBD.