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# CIVIC



Dear friends and fellow community members,

My heart continues to ache but is holding space for all our LGBTQ+ local government leaders and everyone in the queer community this week. Another devastating act of violence has struck the core of our community, this time at Club Q in Colorado Springs, CO. Five souls were taken from us and nearly 20 others were injured. Those numbers are just the start of the impact we will all feel for months to come. The timing is particularly damaging as we learned of the tragedy just minutes into November 20<sup>th</sup>, the same day we recognized Transgender Day of Remembrance. To lose two more transgender lives on a day dedicated to honoring the memory of those we've lost only reinforces the danger our transgender friends and family continue to face daily. Such an acute threat to our freedom to exist comes at the tail end of a year that has already brought us uncertainty about legal freedoms and protections for which we have fought for so long. This pain is not new and unfortunately not unexpected, but it cuts deep during a time that should be reserved for reflection and gratitude.

One of the reasons we started CivicPRIDE was to help more of our colleagues feel like they can be themselves—their WHOLE selves—at work. We celebrate the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ professionals and believe those experiences can help us to be more empathetic and supportive public servants. After such a terrible attack, however, it takes extra courage and resolve to button up our big kid clothes and get back to work. In case you needed to hear it, you have permission to not be okay right now. You have permission to cry, to cancel a

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community is here to support you and ensure that your vital presence in our profession is protected. So many of us are responsible to take care of others. I hope you will let your loved ones take care of you at this time.

Finally—I still believe that through the power of community, love, in all its forms, will win. As our tears of grief and anger slowly dry, I know we will soon be celebrating together again.

Sincerely,

Pam Davis, CivicPRIDE Board Chair

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