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Governor Jared Polis and First Gentleman Marlon Reis Named Grand Marshals for 2019 PrideFest Parade

*-Governor and First Gentleman join legislator, activist and entertainer leading
the parade-*

DENVER, CO – Governor Jared Polis, the nation’s first openly gay governor, will serve as one of the five grand marshals leading the 2019 Coors Light Denver PrideFest Parade. Polis joins First Gentleman Marlon Reis, State Representative Brianna Titone, Mardi Moore, Executive Director of Out Boulder County and Drag Performer Peppermint.

The Coors Light Denver Pride Parade serves as the centerpiece of Denver PrideFest, which takes place June 15-16 in Civic Center Park. Typically attracting more than 100,000 spectators, the parade steps off at 9:30 am on Sunday June 16 and marches from Cheesman Park to the festival at Civic Center via Colfax. This year’s PrideFest pays tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which launched the contemporary LGBTQ civil rights movement.

“Governor Polis exemplifies the progress that the LGBTQ community has made since Stonewall and we are proud to have him take such a visible role in the parade,” said Deb Pollock, CEO of The Center on Colfax, which produces Denver PrideFest.

This year’s grand marshals represent a broad range of interests, from public servants to community activists to entertainers.

- **Governor Jared Polis:** Governor Jared Polis is an entrepreneur, education leader, and public servant. After launching several successful companies, Governor Polis committed himself to making sure other Coloradans had the opportunity to pursue their dreams through founding schools for at-risk students and new immigrants and started nonprofits to help veterans. Prior to serving as Governor, Polis served on the State Board of Education and represented Colorado's 2nd Congressional district.

- **First Gentleman Marlon Reis:** Marlon Reis is a freelance writer, an animal welfare advocate, a father, and the first First Gentleman of Colorado. From raising his two children, to his support of animal welfare organizations such as the Wild Animal Sanctuary right here in Colorado, Reis is committed to making Colorado an even more welcoming place to live. Born and raised in Colorado and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Reis is an avid poet and fiction writer.
- **Mardi Moore,** Executive Director, Out Boulder County: Moore has been active in LGBTQ politics at both the local and national level for 30 years. Prior to joining OBC in 2013, Moore was the Deputy Director of Development at the New York City LGBT Center and worked as the Associate Director of Individual Giving for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She graduated from the University of Denver with a degree in Political Science.
- **State Representative Brianna Titone:** Representative Brianna Titone is the first openly transgender woman elected to state office in Colorado, after winning in a historically conservative district in Jefferson County in 2018. The advocacy work she did on banning conversion therapy was the impetus behind her historic run for office. Representative Titone was a vocal leader on mental health parity, homeowner protections, and affordable housing policy in the 2019 legislative session.
- **Peppermint:** Peppermint is an American actress, singer, and drag queen best known as a fixture in the New York City nightlife scene and contestant on the ninth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Peppermint was the first openly transgender woman to appear on the program. She was also featured in the web series, *Queens of Drag: NYC*. Last season she made her Broadway debut in the musical *Head Over Heels*, inspired by the music of the 80s supergroup The Go-Go's. She was the first trans woman to originate a principal role on Broadway.

About The Center on Colfax...

The Center on Colfax opened in 1976 and over the years has grown to become the largest LGBTQ community center in the Rocky Mountain region, giving voice to Colorado's LGBTQ community and playing a pivotal role in statewide initiatives to reduce harassment and discrimination. Today the Center is focused on fulfilling its mission – to engage, empower, enrich and advance the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of Colorado – by ensuring that every member of the LGBTQ community has access to the programs and resources they need to live happy, healthy, and productive lives. The Center currently operates on an annual budget of \$2.3 million, employs 20 staff members and utilizes more than 500 community volunteers to serve more than 52,000 people each year. www.lgbtqcolorado.org

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