

## **Resolution Declaring June as Pride Month**

Whereas the Town Board of Dryden, New York supports the rights, freedoms, and equality of persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and/or asexual (LGBTQIA); and

Whereas those who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, are among the pioneers within the human rights movement; and

Whereas the Stonewall protestors were subject to police harassment and invidious discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

Whereas this decisive moment in history was followed by the creation of gay rights organizations in every major city in the United States within two years of the Stonewall Uprising; and

Whereas the Stonewall Uprising has been followed by many positive progressive historic moments; and

Whereas in December 1973, the board of the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses; and

Whereas in 1974, Elaine Noble became the first openly LGBTQIA candidate elected to a State legislature in the United States when she won a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives; and

Whereas in 1975, the Civil Service Commission eliminated the ban on the employment of homosexuals in most Federal jobs; and

Whereas, on January 8, 1978, Harvey Milk made national news when he was sworn in as an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; and

Whereas in October of 1979, 75,000 people participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to demand equal civil rights; and

Whereas in October 1987, thousands of activists took part in the National March on Washington to demand that President Reagan address the AIDS crisis; and

Whereas in 1987, Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts became the first Representative to voluntarily come out as an openly gay Member of Congress; and

Whereas in May of 1996, in *Romer v. Evans*, the United States Supreme Court decided that a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing the enactment of protections for gays and lesbians in that State was unconstitutional; and

Whereas at the turn of the century in 2000, Vermont became the first State in the country to legally recognize civil unions between gay and lesbian couples; and

Whereas, on June 26, 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, that under the 14th amendment, States could not criminalize the private, intimate relationships of same-sex couples; and

Whereas, Tompkins County was one of the first counties in the State of New York to pass a Local Law No. 6-1991, amended in its entirety in 2004 as Local Law No. 1-2004, (commonly known as Local Law C), to protect against discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, and

Whereas, on October 28, 2009, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama; and

Whereas the bill expanded existing Federal hate crimes laws to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; and

Whereas, on January 4, 2010, Mayor Annise D. Parker was sworn in as Houston's first openly gay mayor; and

Whereas in December of 2010, Congress approved and President Obama signed the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, allowing gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to serve openly in the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, The Marriage Equality Act passed both houses and was signed into law in New York State on June 24, 2011, making the state the sixth in the nation to do so; and

Whereas, passing the Marriage Equality Act in New York State more than doubled the percentage of Americans who live in states with fair marriage laws and applies to more than 42,000 same-sex couples raising 14,000 children in the state; and

Whereas, the year 2012 marked the first year that all 50 States in the United States had at least one openly LGBTQIA elected official; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2013, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin was sworn in as the first openly gay United States Senator; and

Whereas, on June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in *United States v. Windsor*, that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional and that the Federal Government cannot discriminate against married lesbian and gay couples for the purposes of determining Federal benefits and protections; and

Whereas, on July 21, 2014, President Obama took action to protect LGBTQIA workers by signing an Executive order prohibiting Federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

Whereas, on June 8, 2015, Triathlete Chris Moiser became the first transgender athlete to earn a spot on the United States national team; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2015, the United States military's equal opportunity policy was updated to protect LGBT service men and women from harassment and discrimination; and

Whereas, on June 23, 2015, New York City's Stonewall Inn received a landmark designation by the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission so that the bar cannot be torn down or developed without approval; and

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Obergefell v. Hodges* decided by a vote of 5–4 that the 14th amendment requires all States to license marriages between same-sex couples and to recognize all marriages that were lawfully performed out of State; and

Whereas, on July 2015, the Equality Act was introduced on July 23, 2015, by Congressman David Cicilline with bipartisan support, as the first comprehensive civil rights bill, which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation; and

Whereas, on July 17, 2015, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rules that discrimination based on sexual orientation is “sex discrimination” as outlined in title VII of the Civil Rights Act; and

Whereas, on October 31, 2015, the Obama administration announced that it would approve the spouses of refugees who are approved for resettlement in the United States, even gay spouses who come from countries where legal unions are not possible; and

Whereas, on November 10, 2015, President Obama is named Out Magazine’s “Ally of the Year” and is the first sitting President featured on the cover of a national LGBT news and entertainment periodical; and

Whereas, on December 21, 2015, the Food and Drug Administration shortened the lifetime ban that was enacted in 1983 to allow some blood donations by gay men; and

Whereas in the first 10 weeks of 2016, according to a Human Rights Campaign tally, more than 200 bills across 34 States were introduced that are considered anti-LGBT, the threat on the civil liberties of LGBT people has increased on the State level since the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality; and

Whereas, on May 13, 2016, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released joint guidance to help provide educators the information they need to ensure that all students, including transgender students, can attend school in an environment free from discrimination based on sex; and

Whereas, on May 18, 2016, Eric Fanning was sworn in as the first openly gay Secretary of the Army, marking the first time a branch of the military is led by an openly gay person; and

Whereas, we reflect on these accomplishments, and we recognize that discrimination and exclusion continues to exist in the daily lives of LGBTQI individuals and families, and

Whereas, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) reports that 20%-25% of homosexual people are the victims of hate crimes at some point in their lives; and

Whereas, NCAVP also reports that transgender people of color are at the most risk, with an outrageous statistic - 79% of transgender people of color will be the victim of a hate crime during their lives; and

Whereas, NCAVP reports, “Police response to anti-LGBT violence is extremely uneven, with a majority of respondents saying that law enforcement was "hostile" or "indifferent" to their claims of violence”; and now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Dryden Town Board shall memorialize these historic accomplishments and recognize the continued struggles of the LGBTQAI community; and be it further

Resolved, that the Dryden Town Board declares that June be declared Queer Pride Month in the State of New York; and be it further

Resolved, that the Pride flag be raised at the Dryden Town Hall on the first day of the month of June of every year from 2017 forward, and be lowered on the last day of the month of June of every year from 2017 forward.