



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING HATEFUL VANDALISM TARGETING LGBTQ+ SENIORS AND DENOUNCING WHITE SUPREMACIST ACTIVITY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit organization dedicated toward creating affordable housing communities for older adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+), is leading the development of a 74-unit residential project called The Pryde, located in the former William Barton Rogers Middle School in Hyde Park and is slated to be the first senior housing development in New England intended for LGBTQ+ seniors; *and*

WHEREAS, Secure, stable, and affordable housing is necessary for healthy aging for all, and for many LGBTQ+ older adults, it is essential that a home be a place where they can safely and securely be their authentic selves without fear or shame, but to be free and joyous in community while living happily and healthily to age in place; *and*

WHEREAS, On Sunday, July 10th, at least four signs hanging outside the construction site of The Pryde were found vandalized with hateful and threatening homophobic messages in black spray-paint, which used derogatory and vulgar words threatening LGBTQ+ people and The Pryde; *and*

WHEREAS, Community members from Hyde Park and across Boston promptly gathered that afternoon outside The Pryde construction site to stand united in denouncing hate and reaffirming support of LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. and The Pryde's promise of a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community for all; *and*

WHEREAS, The display of violent and threatening hate speech targeting The Pryde occurred one week after dozens of people who appeared to be affiliated with Patriot Front, described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a "White nationalist hate group," marched through parts of Boston on the Fourth of July weekend with their faces concealed by white coverings and assaulted a Black man; *and*

WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Unit of the Boston Police Department is investigating both the hateful vandalism of The Pryde directed at LGBTQ+ community members and the assault of a Black man related to White supremacist activity occurring in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, A March 2022 report of the Anti-Defamation League found that Massachusetts was the fourth most targeted state in the country by White supremacist propaganda in 2021 with 271 incidents, significantly higher than other states in New England; *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council condemns hateful rhetoric and displays of bigotry in the form of homophobic and queerphobic vandalism targeting LGBTQ+ seniors, and denounces White supremacy and activity intended to invoke fear and intimidation throughout the country and in the City of Boston; *AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council expresses its unwavering support for LGBTQ+ Senior Housing, Inc. and The Pryde senior housing development in Hyde Park, and commits toward ensuring all LGBTQ+ older adults are afforded a home and community to safely and securely be their authentic selves to happily and healthily age in place; *AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges any residents with information or footage which may assist in identifying the individuals involved with the hateful vandalism targeting The Pryde and LGBTQ+ seniors, or individuals involved with the assault connected to White supremacist activity, as well as information relating to potential hate group activity, to contact law enforcement officials.

In City Council July 13, 2022.