



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 2022 AS “LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH”

- WHEREAS,* Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual or allied (LGBTQIA+) in the City of Boston and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to our communities in every aspect, whether openly or without revealing their true authentic selves; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* The City of Boston cherishes the value and dignity of each and every LGBTQIA+ individual, appreciates the importance of equality and freedom for all to live, work, and play, and affirms that every family, in every form or composition, deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy, and supported by their community; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* The City of Boston denounces prejudice and discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, disability, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* The demonstrators, led by Black and Brown transgender activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who protested in June 1969 following a law enforcement raid of the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQIA+ club in New York City, rose against police harassment and discrimination, demonstrated bravery and resilience in what became known as the Stonewall Uprising, and are trailblazers of the ongoing LGBTQIA+ movement; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* LGBTQIA+ individuals, in particular transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, especially those of color, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crimes, and 2022 thus far has seen at least fourteen transgender people fatally shot or killed by other violent means; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* The lack of comprehensive collection of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression demographic data causes tremendous harm to LGBTQIA+ individuals who remain largely invisible to the government entities entrusted with ensuring their health, safety, and well-being; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (“AIDS”) has disproportionately impacted LGBTQIA+ individuals in the United States, due in part to a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective treatments for AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (“HIV”) during the early stages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic; *and,*

- WHEREAS,* Gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color have a higher risk of contracting HIV, and the LGBTQIA+ community maintains its unwavering commitment to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* The COVID–19 pandemic has compounded the systemic inequality that LGBTQIA+ individuals face in the healthcare, employment, and housing systems in the United States, which has led to a disparate impact on LGBTQIA+ individuals; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* LGBTQIA+ youth are at increased risk of suicide, homelessness, becoming victims of bullying, violence, human trafficking, as well as developing mental health conditions including anxiety and depression, and LGBTQIA+ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Pride Month is a celebration of visibility in spite of marginalization, and the LGBTQIA+ community continues this recognition through Pride gatherings, whether physically or by virtual means due to health and safety measures in the ongoing pandemic; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* In June 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that existing civil rights laws prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, a landmark victory for the LGBTQIA+ community; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Despite gains for the LGBTQIA+ community, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals have continually bore a heavy burden of bias, codified into discriminatory policies and laws which have resulted in efforts to deny gender-affirming care to young people and adults as well as bias in health care settings; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Resisting marginalization throughout history, LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to celebrate their identities, love, and contributions to our communities in various expressions of Pride, while looking both backward and forward at the challenges and achievements which remain just as pertinent today as they were in 1969; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* Pride Month is also a recognition that there is more work to be done to enshrine civil rights protections and build a future for all LGBTQIA+ individuals; *and,*
- WHEREAS,* While we celebrate Pride in our LGBTQIA+ community’s existence, resilience, and achievements to date, we must also include a commitment to furthering equity and all the work that still lies ahead; *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*
- RESOLVED:* That the Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates the month of June 2022 as “LGBTQIA+ Pride Month” in the City of Boston and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to take measures to support and affirm the rights, freedoms, dignity, equal treatment, health, and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual or allied individuals.

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