

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, LIZ BREADON, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, Pride Month is observed in June to celebrate joy in the LGBTQIA+ community, to honor the vital contributions LGBTQIA+ people make, and to recognize the historic and ongoing struggles the LGBTQIA+ community has faced and continues to face; *and,*

WHEREAS, The tradition of Pride Month is firmly rooted in both liberation and resistance to persecution, having emerged after protests on June 28, 1969 that were led by Black and Brown transgender and gender nonconforming community activists, including Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stormé DeLarverie, who demonstrated bravery and resilience by rising in response to police harassment and discrimination at the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQIA+ club in New York City; these protests are credited with helping to ignite the modern LGBTQIA+ civil rights movement of the past 55 years; *and,*

WHEREAS, Despite much civil rights progress to celebrate, including Massachusetts' critical role as the first U.S. state to legally license and recognize same-sex marriage 20 years ago on May 17, 2004; the repeal of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law made effective on September 20, 2011; and the U.S. Supreme Court rulings on June 26, 2015 leading to nationwide marriage equality, and on June 15, 2020 leading to the prohibition of employment discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face rapidly accelerating legislative and physical attacks throughout the U.S., particularly targeting the transgender, nonbinary, gender nonconforming, and BIPOC members of the LGBTQIA+ community, including threatening their basic rights to exist freely; *and,*

WHEREAS, The LGBTQIA+ community continually demonstrates strength and resilience, but should not have to stand alone; in these times especially, it is critical that the City of Boston stays resolutely committed to the fight for the safety, freedom, and joy of our LGBTQIA+ community; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates the month of June 2024 as "Pride Month" in the City of Boston, and commits itself — and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools — to take meaningful actions to support and affirm the equitable rights, freedoms, dignity, treatment, health, and safety of Boston's LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Filed in Council: May 23, 2024