

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF NEW PALTZ
Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Landmark Same-Sex Marriages

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held at the Town Courthouse, 59 N. Putt Corners Rd., in said Town on the 15th day of February 2024 at 7:00 o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by _____, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____
Council Member Kristin Brown	_____	_____

The following resolution was offered by _____ who moved its adoption, seconded by _____, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Village of New Paltz made history on February 27, 2004 when the Honorable Mayor Jason West performed same-sex marriages in Peace Park

And **WHEREAS**, Ulster County District Attorney Donald A. Williams charged Mayor West with 19 misdemeanors

And **WHEREAS**, Judge E. Michael Kavanagh issued a permanent injunction stopping Mayor West from solemnizing marriages without a duly issued marriage license

And **WHEREAS**, On March 6, 2004, in New Paltz, New York, two ordained ministers of the Unitarian Universalist Church, KATHERINE GREENLEAF and DAWN SANGRE, performed marriage ceremonies for 13 same-sex couples who did not have marriage licenses, and were charged with a crime for solemnizing marriages without licenses,

And **WHEREAS**, the Town of New Paltz made history when Town Justices Jonathan Katz and Judith M. Reichler dismissed both cases citing numerous examples in which New York's highest court has consistently extended rights and benefits to same-sex partners.

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584, that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry

And **WHEREAS**, the Town and Village are united in their belief that everybody has the right to love, marry, and create a family with the partner of their choosing,

And **WHEREAS**, in recognition of this fundamental right, the Town and Village of New Paltz have proudly celebrated the Annual New Paltz Pride March & Festival since June of 2005,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz joins the Village of New Paltz in acknowledging with pride, respect, and gratitude, the courage and passion for human rights of Mayor Jason West, Ministers Katherine Greenleaf, Dawn Sangrey, Town Justices Jonathan Katz and Judith Reichler, all of the couples who joyously exchanged vows in front of an equally joyous crowd of well-wishers, for their role in advancing the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, forever affirming New Paltz as a community that makes “good trouble.”

And be it further RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Pat Ryan, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, Ulster County Legislator Limina Grace Harmon, and Ulster County Legislator Megan Sperry.

This motion was offered by _____ and was seconded by _____

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Esi Lewis	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Kristin Brown	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

Rosanna Rosenkranse, Town Clerk

Dated: _____