

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING JUNE 2020 AS LGBTQ+ VIRTUAL PRIDE MONTH

At a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held via teleconference on the 4th day of May, 2020, at _____ o'clock P.M., prevailing time.

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

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

WHEREAS, in June of 1969, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City staged an uprising to resist the police harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ+ Americans were commonly subjected, marking the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ+ Americans; and that LGBTQ+ folks continue to suffer discrimination, hostility and exclusion at almost every level of society, including in areas of housing, education, employment, healthcare, family law, immigration and marriage equality; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Pride Month has been celebrated each year since in the month of June to honor the commitment of the LGBTQ+ pioneers who fought for civil rights in the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, a critical tipping point historically for the LGBTQ+ community in the United States; and during this month we celebrate the progress we have made in creating a community more inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ people; and,

WHEREAS, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many states and many LGBTQ+ people in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ+ identities while living in secrecy and fear; and,

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 acknowledged that “[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family;” and,

WHEREAS, the Village of New Paltz made history in Peace Park on February 27, 2004, as the location of the first same-sex marriages in the country (outside of San Francisco) under former Mayor Jason West, and the community has since hosted the annual Hudson Valley Pride Parade & Festival every June; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, many states have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and many states have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals in education; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people, LGBTQ+ youth especially, are at increased risk of suicide, homelessness, and being the targets of bullying and violence; and,

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States, in particular transgender individuals, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crime and higher likelihood of being homicide victims; and,

WHEREAS, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (division E of Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2835) into law to protect all people in the United States from crimes motivated by the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual; and,

WHEREAS, despite being marginalized throughout the history of the United States, LGBTQ+ people in the United States continue to celebrate their identities, love, and contributions to the United States in various expressions of Pride; and,

WHEREAS, the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the United States continues to expand every day and LGBTQ+ people and their allies in the United States remain determined to pursue equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz Town Board declares June 2020 LGBTQ+ Virtual Pride Month and memorializes it as such in this Resolution, as a symbol that we stand as allies even when a global pandemic prevents us from marching together; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz Town Board stands committed and united to help break down the walls of fear and prejudice, and will work to build a bridge to understanding and acceptance until all LGBTQ+ peoples are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tiown of New Paltz Town Board hereby calls upon residents, employers, public officials, and all community members to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and does further encourage all to observe the month of June with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities -- albeit virtual and/or done at home, in accordance with necessary social distancing measures

during the COVID-19 pandemic -- that celebrate our diversity and recognize LGBTQ+ Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our lives; 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 Antonio Delgado, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Jen Metzger, State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, County Executive Patrick Ryan, City of Kingston Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Legislative Chair David Donaldson , Ulster County Legislator Eve Walter, and Ulster County Legislator James Delaune.

VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Alex Baer	_____	_____	_____
Council Member David Brownstein	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.