

2023 JUN -9 AM 10:32

Resolution of the Barrington Town Council

Celebrating the Month of June as Barrington Pride Month, Honoring LGBTQIAP+ Residents and Centering Trans Youth

WHEREAS, in May 2020, the Town Council of the Town of Barrington unanimously approved a resolution establishing June as Barrington Pride Month, to be celebrated annually with the flying of a Pride flag at Town Hall for the month of June and by hosting a flag-raising ceremony planned in partnership between the Town and members of the community; and

WHEREAS, during 2020, the State of Rhode Island took two important steps in recognizing the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual Plus (LGBTQIAP+) community, both of which were supported by Barrington's 2020 Pride Month resolution: the RI Parentage Act was signed into law, updating archaic laws to recognize the many ways people become parents; and the Department of Motor Vehicles began including a third gender option on motor vehicle licenses in order to recognize people who do not identify as male or female; and

WHEREAS, during 2021, the State of Rhode Island removed the harmful exemption that allowed housing discrimination based on gender identity and/or sexual orientation; and the state created a requirement that all new and renovated public buildings have single-use restrooms useable by people of any gender; both measures were advocated for by the Town of Barrington's renewed Pride Month resolution, in June 2021; and

WHEREAS, during Barrington Pride Month 2021, the Town of Barrington unanimously passed legislation to edit the town's Code of Ordinances to use gender-neutral language; and

WHEREAS, the Town formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in 2021 in order to cultivate Barrington's reputation as a welcoming and safe place for all people, including members of the LGBTQIAP+ community and families of all compositions; and

WHEREAS, after a multi-year delay due to the ongoing pandemic, the Town of Barrington held its first in-person flag-raising ceremony to kick off the celebration of Barrington Pride Month on June 1, 2022, which was planned and hosted by representatives from the Town of Barrington's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, in partnership with the Barrington High School GSA, the Barrington Equity Collaborative, Bayside Pride, and residents from the LGBTQIAP+ community; and

WHEREAS, the flag raised during the ceremony was the Progress Pride flag, which builds on the inclusivity of the previously-flown Philadelphia Pride Flag that highlights LGBTQIAP+ folks who are People of Color; designed by Daniel Quasar, the Progress flag adds colors and design elements to remember lives lost to and people living with HIV/AIDS, and to highlight transgender and nonbinary individuals; and it is being flown to add visibility for people who are transgender, particularly trans youth in Barrington; and

WHEREAS, additional waves of anti-LGBTQIAP+ sentiments have risen nationally through the passage of restrictive and damaging legislation, including expansion of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law and bills excluding trans youth from receiving gender-affirming care, reminding us of the work toward justice and equality for all remains critical; and

WHEREAS, during 2023, discriminatory legislation was introduced in Rhode Island's General Assembly (S0391, excluding trans youth from school sports, S0957, effectively outing trans youth without their consent, S0958, prohibiting and criminalizing gender-affirming care for trans youth, and S0960, prohibiting non-binary folks from having their birth certificate reflect their identity), reminding members and allies of the LGBTQIAP+ community that we must remain united with pride, having proven that we are stronger and better together; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Barrington, encourages the increased visibility and celebration of LGBTQIAP+ identifying individuals, with an express emphasis on including and validating transgender youth, who are especially at risk, and the recognition and support of whom reduces suicide rates and instances of self-harm; and

WHEREAS, expressions of community solidarity and celebration aid in advancing the effort toward the full legal, social, and cultural equality of members of the LGBTQIAP+ community within Barrington, statewide, and beyond; and

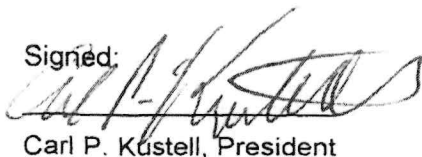
WHEREAS, this resolution was prepared with and endorsed by Barrington LGBTQIAP+ residents, family members, and allies, spanning multiple generations, to broadly represent the diversity within this integral and valued group within our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Barrington continues to designate and joyously celebrate the month of June, annually, as Barrington Pride Month, and all residents are encouraged to find ways to honor, recognize and embrace LGBTQIAP+ residents and guests of Barrington, to support and affirm transgender youth and protect their future, and to remain united with pride; and be it further

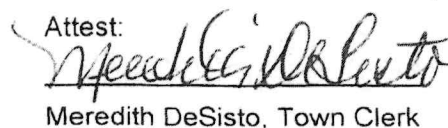
RESOLVED, that upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, the President of the Rhode Island Senate, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, and to the Clerks of all cities and towns in Rhode Island for distribution to their respective Councils.

Adopted by the Barrington Town Council: June 5, 2023

Signed:


Carl P. Kustell, President

Attest:


Meredith DeSisto, Town Clerk

