

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Pride Month is celebrated nationwide each year in the month of June as a time to reflect on the achievements of the LGBTQ+ rights movement and the work that remains to be done; and

WHEREAS, the Uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, following the police raids of June 28 and 29, 1969, launched the modern-day liberation movement for LGBTQ+ Americans; and

WHEREAS, in the decade following the Stonewall Uprising, LGBTQ+ people joined pride marches in New York City's Christopher Park and in cities all around the country, which culminated in the first ever National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Americans continue to face significant discrimination, harassment, and violence, most notably transgender youth and transgender women of color, as evidenced by the recent introduction by the N.C. General Assembly of three bills seeking to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals, especially those who are transgender and gender-nonconforming, in sports, health care and gender-affirming care. The Stonewall Uprising is a reminder of how far we have come and how far we must go until full equality for the LGBTQ+ community is achieved; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill has led the state in advancing equal protection and freedom under the law for LGBTQ+ people in many ways, such as by electing LGBTQ+ leaders to local government, adopting personnel policies which protect the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and their partners, and supporting marriage equality and trans equality by proudly opposing Amendment 1 and House Bill 2 and being the first in the State, along with Hillsborough and Carrboro, to adopt a Non-Discrimination Ordinance once House Bill 142 expired in December; and

WHEREAS, the Town's HRC Municipal Equality Index (MEI) - which reflects how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ+ people who live and work there - is 86 out of 100, the highest in the state, which reflects our deep commitment to equality under the law to the extent permitted by the State of North Carolina; and

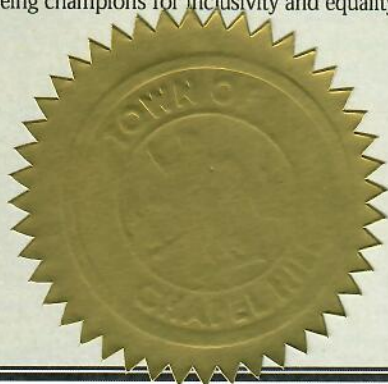
WHEREAS, the Town's embrace and support of its LGBTQ+ residents and employees is reflected in its appointment of an LGBTQ+ Liaison to the Town Manager and the LGBTQ+ Police Liaison to enhance the relationship between the Town of Chapel Hill and the LGBTQ+ community and also seeks input and guidance from the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group on creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive workplace, and to ensure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, The Chapel Hill Town Council reaffirms its opposition to discrimination, prejudice, homophobia, and transphobia; and

WE FURTHER RESOLVE, that the Town of Chapel Hill will continue to advocate for protections for LGBTQ+ individuals to make our community a place where all people- regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression- are not only treated with dignity and respect but welcomed, embraced, and protected as part of our goal of being a Welcoming Community for All; and

NOW, THEREFORE PROCLAIM, June 2021 to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Plus Pride Month in the Town of Chapel Hill and encourage all residents to celebrate the courage, perseverance and sacrifice shown on that day at Stonewall, and to continue being champions for inclusivity and equality.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF
CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE SECOND OF JUNE IN THE YEAR TWO
THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.



Pam Hemming

Pam Hemming, Mayor