



Resolution

RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH CARRBORO'S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Carrboro has a proud history of advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, including adding sexual orientation to the list of characteristics protected in the Town's equal employment opportunity policy in 1990; being the first municipality in the state to create a domestic partner registry in 1994; being the first to elect a gay mayor in 1995 and, later, the first to elect a lesbian mayor, a second gay mayor, and a gay Latino council member; being among the first to support civil marriage "for same-sex couples and inclusion of LGBTQ families in comprehensive immigration reform; being one of several local governments to oppose the General Assembly's discriminatory Senate Bill 2 (Session Law 2015-75) in 2015; being the first to call for repeal of the discriminatory Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act (House Bill 2) in 2016; and being among the first (with the Towns of Hillsborough and Chapel Hill and Orange County) to adopt an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations and employment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in 2021; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes targeting LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, & queer) people have increased every year for the past four years; and

WHEREAS, there were at least 34 trans and gender nonconforming people killed in the U.S. in 2022; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQIA+ community currently experience the highest per capita rate of hate-motivated violence of any marginalized group in the US; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings by domestic terrorists at LGBTQIA+ gathering spaces such as Club Q and Pulse have created fear and trauma in LGBTQIA+ communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, protests and demonstrations targeting drag shows and drag performers have increased dramatically over the last several years, with such protests being held in several locations in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, there has been a sharp increase in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the country, with 233 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills filed in state legislatures across the country in January of this year alone; and

WHEREAS, a copycat version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill has been filed in the NC Senate this session (SB49) which would prohibit discussion of LGBTQ+ identity in most elementary schools classrooms and forcibly out LGBTQIA+ students to their parents; and

WHEREAS, a bill has also been filed in the NC House this session (HB43) that would prohibit gender-affirming care including hormones, puberty blockers, and gender-affirming surgery for people under 18; and

WHEREAS, access to safe spaces at school and gender-affirming healthcare is critical for the mental and physical health of LGBTQIA+ people and teens in particular, who are four times more likely to consider suicide than their heterosexual peers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is committed to fostering an environment that values intersectional visibility and support for our LGBTQIA+ Artists, youth, staff and community members, and others. We recognize their remarkable bravery and authenticity, while also affirming the gender identity and gender expression of our LGBTQIA+ district and community members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carrboro Town Council affirms the full civil and human rights of our LGBTQIA+ community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn all violence and hatred against LGBTQIA+ people, LGBTQIA+ spaces, and LGBTQIA+ events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand in opposition to HB43, SB49, and all legislation that erodes the safety, health, civil rights, and/or bodily autonomy of LGBTQIA+ people, including minors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to our North Carolina General Assembly delegation and the Leadership of both Chambers.

This the 7th day of February, 2023.

A motion was made by Council Member Posada, seconded by Council Member Haven-O'Donnell that the resolution be approved.

**Ayes: Mayor Damon Seils, Council Member Susan Romaine, Council Member Barbara Foushee, Council Member Danny Nowell, Council Member Eliazar Posada, Council Member Sammy Slade.
Absent: Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell**

Damon Seils

Damon Seils, Mayor

