

Proclamation

Pride Month

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month is celebrated nationally each year in June to commemorate the Stonewall riots of 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has a proud history of advancing the rights of LGBTQ+ people, including: adding sexual orientation to the list of protected categories 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; having 28 consecutive years of LGBTQ+ mayors after being the first to elect a gay mayor in 1995 and, later, the first to elect a lesbian mayor in 2013 and the first to elect a second gay mayor in 2021; being among the first to support civil marriage for same-sex couples and inclusion of LGBTQ+ families in comprehensive immigration reform; being the first to call for repeal of the discriminatory House Bill 2 in 2016; being among the first (with the Towns of Hillsborough and Chapel Hill and Orange County) to adopt a local ordinance prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations and employment in 2021; being the first to elect a Latinx LGBTQ+ official in 2022; and being the first to elect a non-binary official in 2023; and

WHEREAS, there is much physical and psychological violence inflicted on LGBTQ+ people: 2021 was the deadliest year on record for trans women; LGBTQ+ people, especially trans people and LGBTQ+ people of color, experience disproportionately high rates of poverty; over 30% of trans and gender non-conforming people have experienced homelessness; LGBTQ+ youth make up a disproportionate number of homeless youth in the United States; and LGBTQ+ youth experience high rates of bullying, harassment, and parental rejection, with accompanying heightened risk of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly continues to target LGBTQ+ people, through laws such as House Bill 574, which prevents trans youth from participating in middle and high school sports; House Bill 808, which bans best-practice medical care for trans youth; and Senate Bill 49, North Carolina's own "Don't Say Gay" bill; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro is committed to defending the human rights of LGBTQ+ people and ensuring that all residents, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, are treated with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Carrboro received a high score of 95 on the Municipal Equality Index, a measure of how inclusive the Town's laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ+ people who live and work here; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro and the Town of Chapel Hill have long been partners in affirming their opposition to discrimination, prejudice, homophobia, and transphobia, and we share a commitment to creating a place where all are welcome; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro and the Town of Chapel Hill will co-host "Small Town Pride," a series of celebrations that will include community partner events, like Orgullo Latinx Pride on Saturday, June 8, and culminating in a Carrboro Pride Dance Party on Friday, June 28;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2024 to be Pride Month in Carrboro. I encourage all residents of Carrboro to celebrate and affirm their LGBTQ+ family members, friends, and neighbors, to take action to defend their human rights, and to participate in Small Town Pride events in Carrboro and Chapel Hill throughout the month.


Barbara M. Foushee

