

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; 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 one of several local governments to oppose the North Carolina General Assembly's discriminatory Senate Bill 2 in 2015; being the first to call for repeal of the discriminatory House Bill 2 in 2016; and 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; and

WHEREAS, there is still 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; there continue to be bullying and harassment of LGBTQ youth, who make up a disproportionate number of homeless youth in the United States; and LGBTQ youth experience high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation and often do not receive mental health care because they fear discussing their mental health concerns or worry about obtaining parental consent; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly continues to entertain bills that target LGBTQ people, including Senate Bill 631 and House Bill 574, which would prevent trans youth from participating in middle and high school sports; House Bill 808, which would ban 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 supporting 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 2022, Carrboro received a perfect score 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 our 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 cohost "Small Town Pride," a series of celebrations that will include, in Carrboro, Orgulla Latinx Pride on Saturday, June 10, and culminating in a Pride Food Truck Rodeo & Dance Party on Friday, June 30;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Damon Seils, mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 2023 to be Pride Month in Carrboro. I encourage all residents to celebrate and affirm their LGBTQ family members, friends, and neighbors, and to participate in Small Town Pride events in Carrboro and Chapel Hill throughout the month.

This the 31st day of May, 2023.



Damon Seils, Mayor

