

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE AS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural, and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and
- WHEREAS,** Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and two spirit (“LGBTQ+”) are present throughout Detroit and around the world, and across all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, disability statuses, education levels, and political beliefs; and
- WHEREAS,** Throughout much of the history of the U.S., LGBTQ+ individuals lived in secrecy and fear, forced to hide their identities and their relationships. This community, especially transgender women of color, face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness; and
- WHEREAS,** LGBTQ+ youth are at increased risk of suicide; homelessness; becoming victims of bullying, violence, or human trafficking; developing mental health illnesses, including anxiety and depression; and LGBTQ+ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and
- WHEREAS,** HIV and AIDS have disproportionately impacted LGBTQ+ individuals, due to criminalizing HIV transmission and a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective treatment during the early stages of the epidemic. The LGBTQ+ community has maintained commitment to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic; and
- WHEREAS,** An estimated number of more than 100,000 brave service members were discharged from U.S. Armed Forces between the beginning of World War II and 2011 because of their sexual orientation, including the discharge of more than 13,000 under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”; and
- WHEREAS,** The demonstration in response to a law enforcement raid at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969 were led by Black and brown transgender and gender nonconforming people, including Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stormé DeLarverie who are considered the pioneers of the U.S. LGBTQ+ movement for equality; and
- WHEREAS,** Members of the LGBTQ+ community have been targeted in acts of mass violence, including the arson attack at the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans, LA, on June 24, 1973, where 32 people died and the shooting at Pulse in Orlando, FL, on June 12, 2016, where 49 people were killed; and;
- WHEREAS,** Despite being marginalized throughout the history of the U.S., LGBTQ+ individuals continue to celebrate their identities and contributions in various expressions of Pride, while have fighting for equal treatment, dignity, and respect.

WHEREAS, On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the U.S. ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584, that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and acknowledged that “[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family”; and

WHEREAS, In June 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that existing civil rights laws prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, a landmark victory for the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, In March 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed an amendment to Michigan’s Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, formally extending protections for LGBTQ+ individuals; then in July 2023, Governor Whitmer signed two acts into law banning licensed clinicians from practicing “conversion therapy” on LGBTQ+ young people.

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals in the U.S. have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, U.S., and the world in every aspect of life, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sports, government, music, film, politics and government, technology, literature, civil rights, and the military; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals in the U.S. remain determined to pursue full equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That Detroit City Council:

- (1) Supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals;
- (2) Acknowledges that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights that are to be protected by the laws of the City, the State of Michigan, U.S. and numerous international treaties; and
- (3) Encourages the celebration of June as “LGBTQ+ Pride Month” in order to provide a lasting opportunity for all individuals in the City to learn about all the LGBTQ+ community has endured, and continues to endure; and to celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community throughout the history of the U.S.; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Detroit delegation in U.S. Congress, the State Senate and State House, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Mayor Mike Duggan.