

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-55

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 1, 2021

To recognize and honor the LGBTQ communities of the District of Columbia and their ongoing struggle for equity, to celebrate the efforts of the Capital Pride Alliance in coordinating celebrations of Pride during an unprecedented public health emergency, and to welcome people in and beyond the District of Columbia to join in the Alliance's festivities throughout the year.

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and other sexual- and gender-minority (LGBTQ+) individuals and communities have been an essential part of the District of Columbia throughout its history, whether openly or covertly;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has a proportionally greater LGBTQ+ population than any U.S. state;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has been the site of groundbreaking LGBTQ+ political organizing for many decades, and LGBTQ+ people have contributed immeasurably to the social, political, cultural, intellectual, and economic advancement of the District;

WHEREAS, since the 1970s, LGBTQ+ people and their allies in the District of Columbia have joined with LGBTQ+ communities across the United States in holding annual Pride events in the month of June, to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities and cultures and insist on LGBTQ+ visibility and equity;

WHEREAS, in addition to their sociopolitical benefits, annual Pride festivities bring numerous economic benefits to both LGBTQ+ and straight cisgender people and their businesses in our region;

WHEREAS, since 2008, the Capital Pride Alliance has led the efforts to organize official annual Pride festivities in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people and communities continue to face violence, oppression, and erasure, especially where their sexual orientations and gender identities intersect with other marginalized identities;

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WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ community leaders, both within the Capital Pride Alliance and in the broader LGBTQ+ communities of the District of Columbia and surrounding region, have made important strides toward ensuring that the needs and goals of Black, brown, transgender, and other communities at greater likelihood of facing exceptional hardship in connection with their LGBTQ+ identities are amplified in connection with Pride events, but the work continues;

WHEREAS, in 2020, among many sacrifices in the name of public health and safety necessitated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Capital Pride Alliance and the people of the District of Columbia found it necessary to forgo a full-scale parade, festival, and other traditional Pride events;

WHEREAS, the Capital Pride Alliance has adapted to the ongoing emergency by organizing novel Pride festivities for June 2021, including among other things a Paint the Town Colorful campaign and a Colorful Pridemobile Parade, with additional modified events to follow later in the year;

WHEREAS; the theme for Capital Pride 2020 and 2021 is “#StillWe”; and

WHEREAS, Capital Pride 2021 reflects the reflects the hard work, dedication, and resilience of the Capital Pride Alliance, its sponsors, and hundreds of volunteers from across the District and our region.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Capital Pride Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Capital Pride Alliance and all who contribute to the success of Capital Pride 2021.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.