

Resolution in Solidarity with Carrboro's LGBTQ+ Community

WHEREAS; the Carrboro Town Council has a proud history of advancing the rights of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ 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 United States in 2022; and

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

WHEREAS, mass shootings by domestic terrorists at LGBTQ+ gathering spaces such as Club Q and Pulse have created fear and trauma in LGBTQ+ 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 such 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 school 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 LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ artists, youth, staff and community members, and others, and recognizes their remarkable bravery and authenticity, while also affirming the gender identity and gender expression of our LGBTQ+ community members;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn all violence and hatred against LGBTQ+ people, LGBTQ+ spaces, and LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ people, including minors.

This the 7th day of February, 2023.