

Proposed: 5/15/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 095-2023(CRR), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution declaring June 2023 to be LGBTQ+ Pride Month; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights historically has been a community that values and seeks diversity in its residents; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, this Council committed itself to a Resolution establishing the "Nine-Point Plan" to promote a well-maintained, full-service residential community that is racially, religiously, and ethnically diverse; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, this Council reaffirmed its commitment to diversity and tolerance by prohibiting discrimination in City employment based upon sexual orientation, as well as race, religion, sex, disability, and ethnic status; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Cleveland Heights Visioning Committee found that the overwhelming majority of Cleveland Heights residents consider diversity to be one of the community's strongest assets and that the residents' lives were enriched because of the varying experiences and perspectives offered by people of different ethnicities, religion, race, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, this Council extended employment benefits to domestic partners of City employees; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the citizens of Cleveland Heights initiated and passed an ordinance to provide for the establishment of a domestic partner registry which was the first of its kind in the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 and 2014, this Council expanded the role and jurisdiction of the Fair Housing Board to hear and investigate sexual orientation and gender identity and expression discrimination complaints occurring in places of public accommodation, education, and employment, as well as in a housing context, and renamed the Board the "Fair Practices Board"; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, this Council passed a resolution supporting the Ohio Fairness Act to ensure that all Ohio residents are able to enjoy basic freedom from discrimination where they work, live, and engage in commerce throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further build and strengthen our communities and nation, one should value the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community members as colleagues and neighbors, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, and friends and partners; and

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WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that much has been accomplished over the last generation to promote equality and justice, as society and its law reflect that diversity and tolerance are strength in a progressive culture, yet many challenges still remain, as prejudice against members of the LGBTQ+ community can still erupt into acts of hatred, violence, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights is committed to equal rights for all Americans and is therefore proud to support all those committed to justice and equality in a crusade to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices and to protect the LGBTQ+ community from prejudice and persecution; and

WHEREAS, many communities and organizations across the United States will celebrate June, 2023 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month to recognize the significance that LGBTQ+ Americans have made throughout our nation's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council does hereby: (i) proclaim June 2023 to be LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) Pride Month; (ii) recognize the LGBTQ+ community for its many and varied contributions that have enriched our civic life; (iii) celebrate the progress made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of the LGBTQ+ community; and (iv) affirm continued efforts to break down the walls of fear and prejudice and work to build a bridge to understanding and tolerance, until the members of the LGBTQ+ community are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as other Americans.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, Ohio Senators J.D. Vance and Sherrod Brown, Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, and Ohio House Speaker Jason Stephens.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to join with other communities in this celebration in a timely manner. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage;

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otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor: _____ Approved: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor