



Tompkins County Legislature

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Proclamation

WHEREAS, Tompkins County stands with the two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Intersex (2SLGBTQI+) community as they take pride in who they are and whom they love, and

WHEREAS, after being unofficially recognized for years, Pride Month was recognized on a federal level by President Bill Clinton in 1999, and this recognition has continued by U.S. Presidents including President Biden, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County was one of the first counties in the State of New York to pass a Local Law No. 6 of 1991, amended in its entirety in 2004 as Local Law No. 1 of 2004, (commonly known as Local Law C), to protect against discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS, the “Ithaca 50,” a 2004 lawsuit in which 25 same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses sued the State of New York claiming that marriage prohibition was unconstitutional, further highlighted Ithaca and Tompkins County’s commitment to 2SLGBTQI+ rights, in this case supporting marriage equality, and

WHEREAS, in the same breath, we must acknowledge the backlash against the 2SLGBTQI+ community because in just the six months of 2024, State and local legislatures across the United States have introduced more than 300 hateful laws targeting the 2SLGBTQI+ community. Books about 2SLGBTQ+ history and people are being banned from libraries. Transgender youth in over a dozen States have had their medically necessary health care banned. Homophobic and transphobic hate speech is pervasive online and armed hate groups intimidate people at Pride marches and drag performances and threaten doctors’ offices, children’s hospitals, and other organizations that offer care to the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County has been a leader in supporting and fighting for the human rights, dignity, and respect of all people, and our values statement reads, in part “Equity - We sustain a workplace community that ensures fairness through diversity and inclusion, eliminates structurally oppressive systems, and builds trust, appreciation, and opportunities for all”, and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is being celebrated locally, including educational opportunities, dances, a pride march, drag shows, literary readings and workshops, film screenings, and history events, and

WHEREAS, members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community now serve in the highest positions of leadership in nearly every level of office, including here in Tompkins County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim the month of June 2024 as

2SLGBTQI+ Pride Month

in Tompkins County, and direct that the Pride/Rainbow Flags shall be flown at County flagpoles during Pride Month as a symbol of our steadfast belief in the equal dignity and rights of all Tompkins County citizens,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby call upon all members of our community to join in celebrating the contributions of our 2SLGBTQI+ residents, and renew our commitment and actions to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 4th day of June 2024.

Dan Klein, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature