

# A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE STONEWALL RIOTS OF 1969

**WHEREAS,** On June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village, members of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community took a nearly-unprecedented move against political, social, legal and police oppression; and

**WHEREAS,** These community members – many of whom identified among the most oppressed in our community, including transgender people, the homeless, sex workers, youth and people of color – summoned the courage and conviction to stand for the most timeless and cherished human values of freedom and liberation; and

**WHEREAS,** In standing physically against police brutality, oppression, wrongful arrest and heterosexist criminal codes these LGBTQ community members set the stage for a nationally and internationally organized movement for LGBTQ civil, legal, social, civic and religious equality; and

**WHEREAS,** LGBTQ people across the United States first commemorated the Stonewall Riots with the first Christopher Street Liberation Day march on June 28, 1970, and each annual commemoration has thus inspired continued movement toward equality and inclusion, as well as the annual Pride festivals and parades celebrated across the globe each year, including celebrations and commemorations in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite these growing advancements in affirmation and inclusion, the LGBTQ community and its allies continue to be targeted for unjust legal discrimination, including in the State of North Carolina, where so-called "religious freedom" legislation could mean widespread discrimination against a wide range of minorities, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, religion and others, and in the City of Charlotte, where efforts to pass fully-inclusive non-discrimination guarantees failed; and

**WHEREAS,** The global LGBTQ community continues to raise awareness on the civil, legal, social, civic and religious inclusion and affirmation LGBTQ people, particularly as they relate to the rights and privileges of people of color and transgender people who still face disproportionate and harrowing levels of violence from both law enforcement officers and their fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** The LGBTQ community continues to evolve in its understanding of these and other intersectional social justice issues, particularly those issues which affect our transgender siblings, LGBTQ immigrants, LGBTQ people of color and others traditionally unrepresented in broader American and LGBTQ political, legal, social and civic institutions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Executive Committee of Charlotte Pride, Inc., recommits itself to the timeless and cherished values of self-evident and universal equality which first inspired not only the founding of our nation but also the beginning of our movement toward LGBTQ equality, both before and during the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, and continuing into the present time; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Executive Committee of Charlotte Pride, Inc., encourages all LGBTQ and straight ally people of goodwill to join with us as we celebrate and empower the Queen City's LGBTQ community while we also commemorate the historic beginnings of our collective movement toward liberation and appeal to all LGBTQ and ally people to fully commit themselves to the cause of full and unmitigated equality for all people, regardless of their race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity or any other defining characteristic.

**PASSED THIS SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CHARLOTTE PRIDE, INC., AND HEREBY SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE:**



Richard Grimstad, co-director



Craig Hopkins, co-director

