

RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE STONEWALL RIOTS OF 1969, MOURNING THE TRAGEDY OF PULSE ORLANDO, AND CALLING FOR THE REPEAL OF NORTH CAROLINA'S HB2

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, 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 today, including celebrations and commemorations in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, this year on August 20 and 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQ community and its allies continue to be targets for legal discrimination and oppression, including in North Carolina where the recent legislation HB2 was designed and passed to directly target members of the transgender community and the larger LGBTQ community, low-income earners, and other minorities after the City of Charlotte passed local LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination protections; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ people also remain the target for violence, as evidenced recently by the tragedies of June 12, 2016, when an act of terror took the lives of 49 of our siblings and injured at least 50 others in the nightclub Pulse, located in the City of Orlando, Florida, the kind of place like the Stonewall Inn where our community nearly 50 years ago had once fought to retain as a safe haven against discrimination, abuse, and violence; and

WHEREAS, We are reminded today and in each passing day of the very real, physical harm which still threatens LGBTQ people at home and in hostile environs across the globe, and that legislation like HB2 creates a climate instilling fear and prejudice, resulting in increased anti-LGBTQ oppression and violence; and

WHEREAS, The Spirit of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, the resulting Liberation Movement, and the universal kinship of all humankind naturally calls each of us to a broader understanding of equality and compels us to speak out against unjust discrimination, oppression, and violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We, the members of the Board of Directors of Charlotte Pride, Inc., recommit ourselves to the timeless and cherished values of self-evident and universal equality which underpin our movement toward LGBTQ liberation, inspired our nation's founding, and which continue to shape our evolving national conscience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We, in the Spirit of Stonewall, demand that the North Carolina General Assembly immediately and without compromise repeal HB2 and enact statewide statutes inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity protecting against discrimination in public and private employment, housing, public accommodations, health care, hate crimes, and education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We call on all LGBTQ and ally people across our region to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ community in Charlotte during our annual Charlotte Pride Festival and Parade, showing our strength and resilience in numbers as we celebrate our achievements, mourn those who have passed, and envision a world in which LGBTQ people are affirmed, respected, and included in the full social and civic life of their local communities, free from fear of any discrimination, rejection, and prejudice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: We appeal to all people of goodwill in the City of Charlotte, this great State of North Carolina and in the United States of America and across the globe to join in prayer with the victims and families of the Pulse Orlando shootings and stand in solidarity with LGBTQ peoples worldwide to immediately and without haste repeal any and all anti-LGBTQ statutes and to enact full, complete, and uncompromising LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination and anti-violence statutes, ordinances and laws.

PASSED THIS TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHARLOTTE PRIDE, INC.

Craig Hopkins, President Daniel Valdez, Vice President Abdul Green, Secretary Richard Grimstad, Treasurer
Directors: Marc Alexander, Nan Bangs, Matt Comer, Kacey Grantham, Gwen Pearson, Jeff Sampson

