

## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH

### MOTION

Submitted by: Council John DaRos, Precinct 6  
Date: May 15, 2024 (for May 20<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting)

### TEXT OF MOTION

I move that the Winthrop Town Council approve the following Proclamation Recognizing June 7-14, 2025 as Pride Week in Winthrop.

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Winthrop Town Council recognizes that June is Pride Month in many communities across the Commonwealth, our Nation, and the World, as a time to celebrate the commonality and diversity of our entire community including our LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, we honor and remember the Stonewall Uprising in New York City in June 1969 which marked a turning point in the LGBTQ rights movement and inspired a new era of activism; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate and protect the human dignity and rights of all marginalized people and communities along with millions of Americans across the Commonwealth, the Nation and the World; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and raise awareness of the ongoing struggles of the LGBTQ community each June, including recent examples we have witnessed:

- 575 anti-LGBTQ legislative bills introduced across the U.S. according to the ACLU, including efforts to rescind LGBTQ marriage equality rights<sup>1</sup>
- Proposed funding cuts for suicide prevention services for LGBTQ youth at a time when 39% of LGBTQ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including 46% of transgender and non-binary young people, with LGBTQ youth of color reporting higher rates than their White peers<sup>2</sup>
- US State Department recognition of challenges for LGBTQ and all people traveling abroad, based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, with more than 60 countries still considering same-sex relations a crime, including some countries where people may face severe punishment.<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, The Town of Winthrop recognizes the accomplishments of the Commonwealth as the first state in the Nation to legalize same-sex marriage in 2004, and the Commonwealth's continued promotion and fostering of the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, as proclaimed by the previous federal administration, "We recognize the valuable contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals to American society and culture, and we reaffirm our commitment to standing in solidarity with LGBTQ+ Americans in their ongoing struggle for full equality"; and

WHEREAS, as Speaker of the House Bob DeLeo stated in Governor Charlie Baker's 2017 Pride Month proclamation press release, "Pride Month is an invaluable opportunity to recognize the gains we've made in ensuring civil rights and to celebrate LGBTQ culture, while reflecting on the work ahead of us,"<sup>4</sup>;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Winthrop Town Council that the week of June 7-14, 2025 shall be recognized as Pride Week in the Town of Winthrop, and that we encourage all residents to join in celebrating the LGBTQ community; and

FURTHER, be it proclaimed that in recognition of Pride Week, the Town of Winthrop authorizes the Town Administration to fly the LGBTQ Pride Flag at the E.B. Newton Cultural Center to represent all members of the LGBTQ community from June 7<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, consistent with Town Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> ACLU online bulletin, April 29, 2025: <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2025>

<sup>2</sup> The Trevor Project 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024>

<sup>3</sup> US State Dept travel bulletin: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgb.html>

<sup>4</sup> State Library of Massachusetts, Office of the Governor, Press Releases; *Governor Baker, House Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Rosenberg Declare June as LGBT Pride Month*, June 6, 2017; <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/724775>