

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2021 AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER
(LGBTQ) PRIDE MONTH IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 1st day of June, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Clerk Guthrie and supported by Trustee Wisinski

WHEREAS, Michigan is home to an estimated 373,000 residents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+); and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's LGBTQ+ residents contribute to the fabric of our society, hold positions in every sector of our economy, and live in every corner of our state; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan has been at the forefront of advancing civil rights for LGBTQ+ people beginning with the nation's first non-discrimination ordinance passed in 1972 in East Lansing and the nation's first Civil Rights Commission to independently recognize that discrimination "because of sex" includes sexual orientation and gender identity in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 16th day of September, 2003 the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend the policy of the Meridian Township Police Department to respect and protect the dignity and constitutional rights of **ALL** persons, and to perform its law enforcement functions in a manner that does not violate those rights; and,

WHEREAS, On the 8th day of May, 2013, Officials from East Lansing, Meridian Township, Delhi Township and Delta Township launched the One Capitol Region coalition at a press conference at the state Capitol announcing plans to push for LGBT nondiscrimination ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 10th day of July, 2013 the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend their internal policies to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 2nd day of October, 2013 the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend the Meridian Township human rights ordinance to prohibit discrimination in housing and public accommodations; and,

WHEREAS, despite local non-discrimination protections and recent protections extended by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, there exists no state or federal anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from being fired, denied housing, or refused service; and,

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, LGBTQ+ individuals and communities have faced unique challenges, including higher rates of self-reported underlying health conditions, according to a report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and experiencing higher rates of job loss compared to non-LGBTQ+ individuals; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's economic vitality depends upon welcoming people of diverse backgrounds, ending discrimination, and attracting and retaining top talent from around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan must continue to support the rights of every citizen to experience equality and freedom from discrimination, and recognize the continued need for education and awareness to end discrimination and prejudice; and,

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 6th Day of December, 2016, the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to stand against hate and discrimination and affirm that Michigan should be a welcoming state for all recognizing that, at every level of American society, refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds contribute to our democracy, condemning any attacks on, harassment of, or intimidation of individuals or places of worship that are based on race, ethnicity, immigration or refugee status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or other social identities; and,

WHEREAS, June 2021 is the 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City, which is recognized as a catalyst for the modern LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement with the first stone being thrown by Marsha P. Johnson, a trans woman of color; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan celebrates LGBTQ+ individuals during this month, and we also recognize the important work that must be done across intersections to create a more equitable state for all identities; AND

WHEREAS, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, and Garlin Gilchrist II, lieutenant governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as Pride Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, That the members of the Meridian Township Board encourage everyone to take a stance against discrimination and reject violence toward LGBTQ+ individuals; to promote self-affirmation, dignity, and equality; and to continue to work toward building a community that promotes diversity, liberty, and justice for all.

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Michigan Attorney General, and the Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

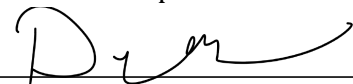
NAYS: None

Resolution declared adopted 7-0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss:
COUNTY OF INGHAM)



I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 1st day of June 2021.



Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Clerk

