

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS 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 4th day of June, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

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

WHEREAS, Meridian Township’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 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 LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination ordinances; and,

WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 10th day of July, 2013 the Meridian Township Board 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, during the COVID-19 pandemic, LGBTQ+ individuals and communities 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, Meridian Township’s economic vitality depends upon welcoming people of diverse backgrounds, ending discrimination, and attracting and retaining top talent from around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Meridian Township 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 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, at a regular meeting of the Township Board on September 19, 2017 the Meridian Township Board officially pledged support to stand against hate and discrimination and affirm that Michigan should be a welcoming state for all; and,

WHEREAS, On the 26th day of August, 2023, Meridian Township held its first annual Pride Celebration to celebrate and honor our Township's LGBTQ+ population and their contributions; and,

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

WHEREAS, June 2024 is the 55th 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;

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.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

Resolution declared

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, Michigan, 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 4th day of June 2024.



Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Clerk