

RESOLUTION 2026 NO. ____

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ONEONTA, NEW YORK, DECLARING JUNE 2026 AS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, June 28, 2026, marks the 57th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York City's Greenwich Village, when patrons of the Stonewall Inn resisted a police raid and ignited six days of protest that became a catalyst for the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQ+) civil rights movement, and the following year, on June 28, 1970, thousands marched from the Stonewall Inn to Central Park in what became the nation's first Pride march, a tradition now observed in communities across the world each June; and

WHEREAS, New York State has led the nation in establishing legal protections for LGBTQ+ residents, including the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA), enacted in 2002, which prohibits discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, credit, and the exercise of civil rights, and the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), enacted in 2019, which added gender identity and gender expression as protected categories under the state's Human Rights Law and hate crimes statutes; and

WHEREAS, New York State has continued to advance LGBTQ+ equality by legalizing marriage equality in 2011, four years before the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, by banning the practice of conversion therapy on minors in 2019, and by enacting safe haven protections for transgender youth and their families, establishing the state as a national leader in the defense of LGBTQ+ civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta is home to a vibrant LGBTQ+ community supported by dedicated local organizations, including the Otsego Pride Alliance, which organizes the annual Pridefest parade and celebration in Oneonta, and the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at SUNY Oneonta, which provides education, advocacy, and support for LGBTQ+ students and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, as a community shaped in part by the students and families of SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College, the Town of Oneonta recognizes that a welcoming town strengthens both campus life and community life, and that students who choose to study and live here deserve to know that Oneonta values them as they are; and

WHEREAS, despite significant legal progress, LGBTQ+ individuals continue to face discrimination, harassment, and violence at disproportionate rates, and LGBTQ+ young people are especially vulnerable, experiencing higher rates of bullying, depression, and suicidality than their peers, making it essential that local institutions and local government send a clear and unmistakable message that these young people are seen, supported, and safe in their own community; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Americans are experiencing a period of significant uncertainty as federal civil rights protections, public health resources, and recognition of LGBTQ+ identities in federal data and public institutions have been reduced or withdrawn, underscoring the critical role that state law and local government play in affirming the rights and dignity of all residents; and

WHEREAS, New York State law, including SONDA and GENDA, continues to provide robust protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and the Town of Oneonta recognizes its responsibility to uphold the spirit of those protections at the local level; and

WHEREAS, this resolution marks the first time the Town Board of the Town of Oneonta has formally recognized LGBTQ+ Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopts this resolution with the conviction that our community is made stronger when every resident can live openly, equally, and with a full sense of belonging;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Oneonta hereby declares the month of June 2026 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the Town of Oneonta and affirms its support for LGBTQ+ residents and the protection of their civil rights under the laws of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board commends the work of the Otsego Pride Alliance, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at SUNY Oneonta, and all community organizations working to make the Town of Oneonta a more inclusive and welcoming place for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to post this resolution publicly at Oneonta Town Hall and on the official Town of Oneonta website, and to transmit copies of this resolution to the Otsego Pride Alliance, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at SUNY Oneonta, and Hartwick College; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board encourages all residents, businesses, civic organizations, and community institutions to join in recognizing Pride Month and to treat all members of our community with the dignity, respect, and belonging they deserve, during this month and every month.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Oneonta on _____, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: ___ Nays: ___ Absent: ___