

Town of Swampscott

PRIDE MONTH

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our nation and our community was founded on the principle of equal rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Swampscott is committed to being an inclusive community and welcoming of all people regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity and recognizes that we are a diverse community, enriched by this diversity, including those that are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Swampscott supports the rights of every citizen to experience equality and freedom from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The movement towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people took a historic turning point in June 28, 1969, in New York City, with the onset of the Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, We will never forget that 21 year old Matthew Shepard, a college freshman at the University of Wyoming was brutally attacked in an act of homophobic violence in 1998, where he was abducted, bound, robbed and pistol-whipped by two local men before leaving Matt for dead after being tied to a fence in a field outside of town in freezing weather for 18 hours.

WHEREAS, violence against the LGBTQ+ community continues to be a critical issue in the United States, with violence toward transgender and gender non-conforming people facing intensely concerning trends; and

WHEREAS, While there has been remarkable progress towards acceptance and equality in recent years, members of the LGBTQ+ community in the United States and around the world still face an unacceptable level of discrimination and violence. This includes LGBTQ+ people who are not safe at home and those who do not have a home in which to stay.

WHEREAS, We must push back against those who threaten the safety of LGBTQ+ residents and challenge our progress. And we must continue to make the case that all human beings share something fundamental in common – all of us want to be loved, and all of us want to love.

WHEREAS, Swampscott celebrates its diverse LGBTQ+ community; and is committed to ensuring equality for all our residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the people of Swampscott's LGBTQ+ community are a vital part of all fields and professions and contribute to a stronger and welcoming Swampscott; and

WHEREAS, we have improved attitudes of society by encouraging inclusiveness throughout our community and celebrating PRIDE month; and

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the Town Administrator and Select Board in the Town of Swampscott, we hereby proclaim the month of June as Pride Month in Swampscott, and encourage everyone to treat others with mutual respect and understanding.