



**MORRIS COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC
LGBTQA+ CAUCUS**

Dear Mayor and members of Council,

With the rise of extremism and division in our nation, it is more important than ever that we recognize those among us who have been not only marginalized but also attacked for just being who they are. We must recognize and celebrate the members of our own community in a positive way. In a time where social unrest and division have separated people, we must find ways to unite all people. Love is love regardless of race, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or gender identity.

The month of June has been nationally recognized as "Pride Month." The celebration of Pride includes all people. Sadly, the LGBTQ+ community faces many challenges including the rolling back of civil liberties, high rates of suicide, and increasing hate crimes.

I hereby urge you to formally recognize June as Pride Month through a Resolution or Proclamation declaring such. When we celebrate members of our community, we encourage their participation in that community. We bring them out of the shadows, and, most importantly for our young people, we send the message that we accept them no matter what. We let them know, and we let the community at large know, that we support and protect ALL members of our community. We let them know that all people are welcome here and that we stand against bigotry and the hatred and potential violence that comes along with it.

Indeed, many other towns have recognized June as Pride Month, including Morris Township, Morris Plains, Morristown, Parsippany, Dover, Mendham Township, Madison, Chatham Borough, Jefferson Township, Rockaway Twp., and Butler, to name a few, as well as the Morris County Board of County Commissioners, I am sure you join me in hoping to include our own community to this list. Elected officials serve on behalf of all residents. The choice to make a statement of support to people who feel marginalized can ensure that all feel seen, heard, and welcomed.

I look forward to working together to accomplish this. I am attaching a sample Resolution template for your consideration. This Resolution recognizes June as Pride Month, as a way of showing that your municipality is a welcoming community. I also respectfully ask you to allow the Pride flag fly at our municipal building, or in another highly visible area during the month of June. The flying of the Pride flag lets everyone know they are truly accepted here.

We are hopeful a Resolution and a Pride flag raising can be presented at your next meeting and successfully adopted. The light of love must shine brighter than hate.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris County Democratic LGBTQ+ Caucus.