

Dear Mayor and members of Council,

June has been recognized as Pride Month by three presidents of the United States; President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month" in 1999 and 2000. Then from 2009 to 2016, each year he was in office, President Barack Obama declared June LGBT Pride Month. President Joseph Biden has also recognized Pride Month.

In collaboration with Morris County's Stigma-Free Communities Initiative, we hope your municipality will stand with us as friends and allies. It is our sincere hope that your municipality will fly the Pride flag this year, and every year, in June.

The Pride flag is a beacon of hope, particularly for our LGBTQ+ youth, and welcomes everyone. It allows members of the LGBTQ+ community to know they are welcome, accepted and safe. The Pride flag tells vulnerable youth they are not alone. In this time of unprecedented attacks on trans kids and LGBTQ kids in general, municipal governments can stand for them and with them.

The Pride flag is not just "any other flag" and should not be grouped with flags that may be considered inappropriate. The Pride flag has been flown outside the White House and internationally, which provides adequate credentials to fly in your municipality and differentiates it from a great many flags. If your municipality is genuinely concerned about discouraging other flags from flying, it should address that issue separately and not bar the flying of the Pride flag in June.

We ask your municipality to stand with us in support of the LGBTQ+ community. By flying the Pride flag, let your citizens know that this is a community of love and acceptance and that all are welcome here.

Respectfully,

The Morris County Democratic LGBTQA+ Caucus