

Council Member Conti introduced the following:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 28.31.20R (MC)

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATEWIDE MARCH ON ALBANY FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS on March 14, 1971 Gay Liberation groups from throughout New York State marched on Albany in the first statewide march on a State Capital for Gay and Lesbian human rights; and

WHEREAS this march was fueled by the political activism that grew out of the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 and the Christopher Street Liberation Day March of 1970; and

WHEREAS there were enough political groups in New York State to muster a statewide march of approximately 3,000 individuals in 1971 with participants coming from all corners of New York State; and

WHEREAS among the sponsoring organizations was the Tri-Cities Gay Liberation Front of Albany-Troy-Schenectady, which was a forerunner of the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council known today as The Pride Center of the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS the demands of the marchers were repeal of state consensual sodomy, solicitation, loitering and cross-dressing laws and enactment of non-discrimination protections in employment and housing; and

WHEREAS before the March even began, participants were met with a number of threatening phone calls including threats of physical violence; and

WHEREAS a bus full of marchers was turned away from a Thruway rest stop because they made patrons at the stop “uptight” causing the State Police to tell the bus driver that it would be a “good idea” for their own safety not to make any more stops until they reached Albany; and

WHEREAS among the hospitality they found in Albany was from the First Unitarian Society of Albany which hosted a dance and open house the Saturday before the event; and

WHEREAS in the words of the late LGBTQ activist Jim Owles in his speech at the rally: “We’re here to shake them up ... to demand an immediate end to all oppressive laws against all gays and full and equal treatment and the same rights guaranteed to every minority.”; and

WHEREAS these early pioneers persevered in bringing their demands for equality to the State Capitol making this march a significant page in the history of the modern LGBTQ human rights movement and according the City of Albany a prominent role;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council does recognize and commemorate this seminal event on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and recommits itself to equality and fair treatment for all residents of the City of Albany; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Common Council requests that the Mayor cause to be flown from City Hall the LGBTQ Pride flags in recognition of this event for the 50th Anniversary weekend from Friday, March 12 through Sunday March 14, 2021.

To: Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk
From: John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq., Research Counsel
Re: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum
Date: February 24, 2021

SPONSOR(S) Council Member Conti

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TITLE

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATEWIDE MARCH ON ALBANY FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION

Commemorating and recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Statewide March on Albany for Gay and Lesbian Right.

FISCAL IMPACT(S)

None.