

2015-J6341

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Buffalo's first public pride event to be recognized with a Candlelight Wish Celebration on June 21, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the profound impact of those exemplary organizations within the great State of New York which proactively work for the enfranchisement of minority communities, and the importance of such work for the benefit of all citizens of this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Buffalo's first public pride event to be recognized with a Candlelight Wish Celebration on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at Evergreen Commons, Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Buffalo's LGBTQ community held its first outdoor, public celebration behind the Buffalo Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, At a time when LGBTQ rights were only a dream and little protection was available, community members, government officials, journalists, and performers joined together to openly celebrate Buffalo's vibrant and resilient gay community; and

WHEREAS, This inaugural event planted the seeds that have grown into the Pride Week that Western New York loves today; and

WHEREAS, Pride Center of Western New York, Inc. (PCWNY), is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to work with the community to make Western New York a safe, healthy, and satisfying place for the LGBTQ community to live, work, and establish their families; and

WHEREAS, This year, as part of Western New York Pride Week, a Candlelight Wish Celebration is being held and will include performances, presentations, and recreations to commemorate the trailblazing event;

and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the evening will end with attendees making the same candlelight wish that was made 25 years ago, an acknowledgement of how far the LGBTQ community has come, and how far it still has to go; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of organizations and individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Buffalo's first public pride event to be recognized with a Candlelight Wish Celebration on June 21, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pride Center of Western New York, Inc.