

2015-K1563

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the loss of life in the wake of the devastating tragedy in Orlando, Florida and applauding all of those who acted immediately and heroically in the face of danger

WHEREAS, In the early morning of June 12, 2016 as patrons gathered at Pulse, a popular nightclub for members of the LGBTQ community in the heart of Orlando on an evening featuring Latin music, patrons were felled by the bullets of a lone gunman driven by hatred and armed with malice; and

WHEREAS, The beloved principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness on which this great republic was built have once again come under attack and innocent civilians have paid the ultimate price for daring to be true to themselves and for pursuing happiness on their own terms; and

WHEREAS, This unspeakable attack, the worst of its kind in recorded history, has stolen dozens of lives and left countless others marred by grief and suffering; and

WHEREAS, For all New Yorkers and citizens across the nation, this senseless tragedy marks another painful chapter in the fight for freedom and equality, reopening old wounds and forging new scars; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers gathered for a vigil at the historic Stonewall Inn and at other sites across the state, indeed the world, stunned by the events in Orlando and looking for solace, to stand in solidarity with all those whose lives have been interrupted; and

WHEREAS, Like it has done before in the face of imminent danger and overwhelming odds, the heroic spirit that defines this nation shone through the actions of every individual and first responder who risked their own lives to rush to the defense of perfect strangers; and

WHEREAS, The combined efforts of local and federal law enforcement

personnel and ordinary citizens to bring an end to this horrific event and provide aid to the victims in their most vulnerable moments, are a true testament to the power of human compassion; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Body is sincerely grateful for their bravery; and

WHEREAS, We mourn those whose lives were lost in this tragedy and for their sake, we remember that we must never give in to hate and violence nor surrender to those who would use it to stifle the unwavering American spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to express sincerest condolences to the people of Orlando, Florida, the LGBTQ community in its full diversity and to every family impacted by this devastating tragedy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mayor of Orlando, Buddy Dyer.