



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

RESOLUTION: 2018-886

OCTOBER 11, 2018

CHAIRMAN GRANADOS, ENTIRE BOARD

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union wishes to proclaim **October 11, 2018 as Coming Out Day throughout the County of Union**; and further declares **Union County as a safe space for LGBTQ individuals**; and

WHEREAS, all humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer individuals have made immeasurable impact to the cultural, civic and economic success of Union County; and

WHEREAS, while society at large increasingly supports LGBTQ equality, it is essential to acknowledge the need for education and awareness which remain vital to advance acceptance and end discrimination and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognizes and proclaims this day, October 11, as National Coming Out Day, throughout Union County and participates in the one-day campaign that engages communities to take a stand against the discrimination, violence, harassment, and bullying of LGBTQ people by coming out in support of safe spaces where they "LIVE, LEARN, WORK, PLAY, and PRAY"; and

WHEREAS, on this day, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognizes that the patchwork nature of current LGBTQ protections across the country and the recent significant reversals of Federal LGBTQ protections amplifies the urgency for local governments to provide non-discrimination protections; and

WHEREAS, through this resolution, the Freeholder Board emphasizes the extensive legal protections, outreach and advocacy efforts to create a safe space for LGBTQ people in Union County; and

WHEREAS, Federal and New Jersey laws prohibit discrimination on numerous bases and New Jersey specifically prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression, affectional or sexual orientation, within the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.) (NJLAD) and the County of Union adheres to these laws; and

WHEREAS, the County of Union has had a longstanding policy against discrimination, and this policy is incorporated into the Administrative Code of Union County insofar as it relates to County employment, contracts, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, this year, the County of Union established the Office of LGBTQ Services, the first county government office of its kind in the State of New Jersey and one of four government offices in the United States, to support equality and serves as a catalyst for advocacy, awareness and action on current and emerging issues that impact the lives of LGBTQ individuals; and

WHEREAS, through the Office of LGBTQ Services, the County of Union became the first county government body in the State of New Jersey to declare by resolution June 2018 as Pride Month and October 2018 as LGBTQ History Month; and

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Approved as to Form:

Certifying as to an Original Resolution:

Certified as to a True Copy:

✓ Vote Record - Resolution RES-2018-885		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Rebecca Lynne Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended	Bruce H. Bergen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	Angel G. Estrada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Angela R. Garretson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Sergio Granados	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Christopher Hudak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bette Jane Kowalski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Alexander Mirabella	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mohamed S. Jalloh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

WHEREAS, the Union County Sheriff's Office maintains a LGBTQ liaison who plays a crucial role in community outreach and serves as a resource and advocate for LGBTQ individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Human Relations Commission was created by the Union County Prosecutor's Office to promote and encourage a more peaceful society in Union County, by providing support to victims who are targets of a crime because of their race, creed, color, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, socio-economic status, or physical or mental challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders wishes to reiterate its determination for providing the LGBTQ community meaningful support and resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union hereby proclaims: **Union County, New Jersey as a safe space for LGBTQ individuals**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, suitably prepared and distributed to the Union County Office of LGBTQ serves, up on which any Union County entity that wishes to commit their support to creating safer spaces for LGBTQ people can request a copy for personal and professional display.