

Tracy Delaney

From: Tom DePietro
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Tracy Delaney
Subject: Fw: Pride Resolution Part 3 - Hudson NY
Attachments: Hudson & June - Pride Email 1.pdf; Gmail - Pride Resolution - Email 2 - 07212020.pdf; PRIDE Resolution - 1.pdf

Please add this to correspondence.

Thomas DePietro
Common Council President
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City of Hudson, New York 12534
518-828-1030, ex.114
Cell: 914-584-5373
councilpres@cityofhudson.org

From: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Tom DePietro; Jane Trombley; Rebecca Wolff; Tiffany Garriga; Dewan Sarowar; Shershah Mizan; John Rosenthal; Malachi Walker; Calvin Lewis, Jr.; Dominic Merante; Eileen Halloran
Cc: Kamal Johnson; Michael Chameides; BarrettD@assembly.state.ny.us; jordan@nysenate.gov
Subject: Pride Resolution Part 3 - Hudson NY

I wanted to again follow up on the PRIDE resolution - I'm sure you are hearing about many issues, but I'll stay focused on the issue of the PRIDE Resolution.

To bring back the overall issue that started this, I brought up to both the Council and the Mayor's office back in the end of June that the City did nothing to recognize the Month of June as Pride month. I was asked what should be done, I gave some thoughts to that and I was assured that this would be 'fixed' this month. (see attached email trail titled "Hudson & June – Pride Email 1")

The informal meeting on 7/13 didn't have the Resolution available even though it was agreed this would be fixed on 7/2 – by both the Common Council President and the Mayor's office. This is a prime example of how Hudson Common Council doesn't provide transparency to its citizen's in a time of crisis, or even in a time of normalcy. The Council President has proven over the last 2.5 years, that it isn't important to allow all resolutions to be introduced in the informal – you can go back over the last 30 or so meetings and see the increase in resolutions that were not emergency resolutions, such as this one. there was plenty of time to put together a thoughtful resolution for the informal.

You had a chance to fix this, yet you did not. When the final meeting agenda was posted for the regular meeting yesterday, the resolution that was put forth, was shocking, to say the least. (See attached original resolution). You politicized COVID19, the murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and justice/equality all as excuses as to why you 'forgot' about PRIDE and what the month stood for.

Before I go on, let me give you an idea as to why it was important for me to have the City of Hudson honor and remember June as LGBTQI month, not only as the City I call home, but because it is the County Seat of Columbia County.

In 2020, I still can't walk down the street and hold my husband's hand without fear of being called names or worse. I can't assume that everyone that I come into contact with has our best interests in mind.

My heart beats out of my chest when someone yells faggot at us on the street, or faggot out of their car while driving down the street or at a stoplight. I tense up and a pit develops in my stomach and I feel incredibly unsafe in my community and wonder what is next.

You had 12 days to put a thoughtful resolution together and you didn't. The initial resolution that was posted at 5 was tone-deaf not only to the plight of the LGBTQI community but to the struggles of racial justice, system racism, and the pandemic, by using them as excuses. How anyone thought this resolution was a way to 'fix' a forgotten equality struggle, is beyond me. The only thing it proved was that Hudson's Common Council can't seem to multitask numerous issues and needs at the same time.

Only after my sending email number two (attached) – to the entire Council, did you make changes, and these changes were to just delete out your excuses. Why bother 'celebrating' or 'remember' a group, if you are not going to even pretend to spend the time on why it's important to. And it's apparent it was written by someone who has no idea of the struggle of the LGBTQI community or cares.

When this resolution was presented last night, there was no overall mention of an apology or acknowledgment from the City – outside of 3 Alderpeople who said something – nothing from the President of the Council or any of our other 'allies' on the Council. One Alderman injected his moral objection to it yet voted for the resolution – and not one of you stood up and took exception to this comment.

You all were more worked up about Zoom etiquette and chickens, then you were with someone who made an inappropriate remark – it's not a lifestyle, it's not a choice, it's how we were born.

I am ashamed at the way you handled this entire situation – I find it grossly inadequate how you plowed through something so important without even a gesture of interest. I find it appalling that you sit silently when we are all supposed to be fighting for justice, equality, and respect.

I'll close by leaving you this – I've been asked "what do I suggest" "what can you do" "how do we fix this" "you didn't mean to sound like...." – perhaps you can learn a bit as to why PRIDE is important to us. Understand it's not just window dressing and rainbows – I'll leave you three pieces of a long history:

Stonewall Riots – 2 courage transgendered people of color who started the struggle for equality.

The Murder of Paul Broussard – why I became active when a close friend lost his best friend because a group of 10 decided to go out 'hunting' for homos. His death was further complicated by a slow response by emergency medical units driving deliberately slow and without sirens.

The Upstairs Lounge – many think the tragedy at Pulse Night Club was the first mass murder in the LGBTQI community, but it wasn't. 32 men lost their lives being locked into the bar and having the bar set on fire. A quote: "Although it raged out of control for less than twenty minutes, the blaze left a fallout that shocked Carl Rabin, the coroner who would struggle to identify the bodies using jewelry and hotel room keys. Fingers and faces and bones were scorched beyond recognition. "They were just piled up," he said. "People in a mass. One falls, then another fall. It's just a mass of death. It's sickening.""

**Rob Bujan
P.O. Box 1238
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(917) 514-9462**



rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Hudson & June - Pride

8 messages

rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 2:39 PM

To: Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>

Cc: Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Hudson Mayor <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Mayor's Aide <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Jane/Rebecca,

I hope you are both well - I am writing, as I have looked at the minutes for June and don't see anywhere that the City acknowledged Pride Month in Hudson. I realize that Pride events were canceled and as part of Out Hudson, we would coordinate flags and such for June.

But, the City normally acknowledges Pride and acknowledged it as part of the Council/Mayor's office. And in this time of COVID - I am a bit surprised it wasn't specifically mentioned.

Unless I am totally missing it - and please correct me if I am wrong, I don't see any mention of it by the City of Hudson - if that's the case, that's a real shame that a historic fight for equality was overlooked by Hudson.

Thanks,
Rob

Rob Bujan
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Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>

Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 2:46 PM

To: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>

Cc: Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

I acknowledged it on my Mayor page but I'm not sure as a city we have. Given how this year has gone this was not something that was done on purpose. What do you suggest we do now that we are in July? Myself and the council I'm sure would be more than willing. ~Kamal

Kamal Johnson, Mayor**City of Hudson, New York**

520 Warren Street

Hudson, NY 12534

(518) 828-7217

mayor@cityofhudson.org

www.cityofhudson.org

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rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 2:53 PM

To: Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>

Cc: Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>, Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Thanks for getting back to me Mayor - I had this on my plate to email for 2 weeks - so I get that "how this year has gone" for sure.

I am not sure really - because you're right - it is July - maybe proclaiming the last week of June (which we are still in) about remembering those who fought for LGBTQ rights? (not sure of a proclamation is the correct form or not) -

Thanks -r

Rob Bujan
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(917) 514-9482

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Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org> Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 3:00 PM
To: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>, Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>
Cc: Rebecca Wolf <rebecca.wolf@cityofhudson.org>, Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Hi Rob,
Letting this slip is an embarrassment for us all, even with all the distractions of the moment. Revealing my inexperience of how proclamations work, Kamal, is it possible to do as Rob suggests - the last week of June as a remembrance, and then, right now, put it on a proclamation "calendar" for the month of June 2021 and thereafter?

Jane Trombley
1st Ward Alderwoman
518.697.9496

From: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 14:54
To: Kamal Johnson
Cc: Jane Trombley; Rebecca Wolf; Tom DePietro; Michael Chameides
Subject: Re: Hudson & June - Pride

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Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org> Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 3:08 PM
To: Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>
Cc: Rebecca Wolf <rebecca.wolf@cityofhudson.org>, Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

I'm sure the council can have one set for this month's meeting. That way going forward this won't happen again. If you reach out to Jeff he can put one together. As a collective we can let it be known that this should not have slipped through the cracks and give our appreciation for the work of those who fought for equality. ~Kamal

Kamal Johnson, Mayor

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Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org> Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 3:10 PM
To: Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>
Cc: Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

I've already contacted Jeff.

Thomas DePietro

Common Council President

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From: Kamal Johnson
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:08:43 PM
To: Jane Trombley; rob bujanjr
Cc: Rebecca Wolff; Tom DePietro; Michael Chameides
Subject: RE: Hudson & June - Pride

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Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org> Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 5:28 PM
To: Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>
Cc: Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Thanks for pointing it out, Rob. I have been enjoying so much Pride messages and posts and notifications etc that I didn't even notice the city had not made any kind of statement or gesture.

From: Tom DePietro
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:10:16 PM
To: Kamal Johnson; Jane Trombley; rob bujanjr
Cc: Rebecca Wolff; Michael Chameides

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rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com> Thu, Jul 2, 2020 at 6:05 PM
To: Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>
Cc: Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Thanks all for the quick response and a solution.

7/22/2020

Gmail - Hudson & June - Pride

Rebecca- the fact that you didn't notice that the City didn't do anything, while you saw other Pride messaging, is exactly what I am talking about. Private, personal, corporate messaging shouldn't distract from the Government's need to support or celebrate equality and diversity. It was only 5 years ago last month- my husband was legally recognized in all 50 states.

Thanks - rob

Rob Bujan
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rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Pride Resolution

2 messages

rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 5:37 PM

To: Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>, Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>

Cc: dewan.sarowar@cityofhudson.org, tiffany.garriga@cityofhudson.org, shershah.mizan@cityofhudson.org, calvin.lewis@cityofhudson.org, malachi.walker@cityofhudson.org, john.rosenthal@cityofhudson.org, Eileen Halloran <eileen.halloran@cityofhudson.org>, dominic.merante@cityofhudson.org, Hudson Mayor <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Mayor's Aide <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Alderman Trombley & Wolff & President DePietro,

I just read the Pride resolution up for tonight's agenda, since it wasn't available for the informal meeting. If I knew my email stating that PRIDE should have been recognized was going to produce a resolution that talks more about why you didn't recognize it as opposed to why it is important to, I would have not wasted my time.

Between the flippant response by Alderman Wolff, to the writing of this resolution, it seems no one really understands the reason why PRIDE is so important to the LGBTQI community.

All the reasons you list as to why you forgot about it, as listed in your WHEREAS are incredibly important things we are a nation are dealing with right now. And as a community, we are fighting to battle against COVID, against racism, and for equality.

However, the resolution's message is lost by your listing why you didn't do it, instead of telling the city why it's important to recognize June as Pride Month.

I also have no idea if you are recognizing June or July as you switch between the months as you start the resolution as July and revert to June.

This is disappointing, and non-celebratory (as you resolve), to say the least.

Rob Bujan
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Rebecca Wolff <rebecca.wolff@cityofhudson.org>

Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 6:15 PM

To: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>, Tom DePietro <councilpres@cityofhudson.org>, Jane Trombley <jane.trombley@cityofhudson.org>

Cc: Dewan Sarowar <dewan.sarowar@cityofhudson.org>, Tiffany Garriga <tiffany.garriga@cityofhudson.org>, Shershah Mizan <shershah.mizan@cityofhudson.org>, "Calvin Lewis, Jr." <calvin.lewis@cityofhudson.org>, Malachi Walker <malachi.walker@cityofhudson.org>, John Rosenthal <john.rosenthal@cityofhudson.org>, Eileen Halloran <eileen.halloran@cityofhudson.org>, Dominic Merante <dominic.merante@cityofhudson.org>, Kamal Johnson <mayor@cityofhudson.org>, Michael Chameides <mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org>

Rob, I truly apologize if my reply came off as flippant. I meant it more in the spirit of surprise, as in, wow, I can't believe I didn't notice that. But I can see how it would not sound that way. I was not involved in the draft of the resolution but will review it now.

Rebecca

From: rob bujanjr <robhpf@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 5:37:57 PM

To: Tom DePietro; Jane Trombley; Rebecca Wolff

7/22/2020

Gmail - Pride Resolution

Cc: Dewan Sarowar; Tiffany Garriga; Shershah Mizan; Calvin Lewis, Jr.; Malachi Walker; John Rosenthal; Eileen Halloran; Dominic Merante; Kamal Johnson; Michael Chameides
Subject: Pride Resolution

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RESOLUTION NO. 6
July 21, 2020

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING JULY
AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH IN THE CITY OF HUDSON**

WHEREAS the month of June is nationally recognized and celebrated as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in commemoration of the June 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City which marks the birth of the modern-day LGBTQ human rights movement; and

WHEREAS, over the past several decades the City of Hudson has benefitted from a vibrant and involved LGBTQ community that has helped in the revitalization and economic development of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson takes pride in welcoming and involving the LGBTQ in all aspects of the Hudson community; and

WHEREAS, under normal circumstances the Common Council would have proclaimed June as Pride Month in the city, however the continuing efforts to deal with the Covid-19 presented a distraction that resulted in the Common Council failing to recognize Pride Month; and

WHEREAS, events nationally and in Hudson specifically resulting from the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, further distracted the Common Council from recognizing Pride Month as the City began the process of addressing systemic racism in the community and means by which the police department can be more sensitive to implicit racial bias; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the importance of the pandemic and resolving issues of systemic racism, the Common Council should have taken the opportunity to recognize Pride Month.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Hudson does hereby recognize and celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ community to the City of Hudson and does further recognize and celebrate the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the City of Hudson.