

This proclamation was adapted from an earlier national proclamation. Of all the language I explored, These words, rearranged fit best the spirit of Pride Month in McHenry County.

Whereas individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this proclamation as “LGBTQ+”) include individuals from, every municipality in McHenry County and unincorporated McHenry County, and

Whereas the systemic inequality that LGBTQ+ individuals face in securing healthcare, employment, and housing systems in McHenry County, leading to a disparate impact on LGBTQ+ individuals; and

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States and McHenry County serve, and have served, the United States Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marines honorably and with distinction and bravery; and

Whereas LGBTQ+ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in positions in the Federal Government and State and local governments, including as members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, mayors, and city council members in McHenry County; and

Whereas, throughout much of the history, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many States, and many LGBTQ+ individuals were forced to hide their LGBTQ+ identities while living in secrecy and fear; and

Whereas LGBTQ+ youth in McHenry County are at increased risk of suicide; homelessness; becoming victims of bullying, violence, or human trafficking; and developing mental health illnesses, including anxiety and depression; and

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in McHenry County have achieved significant milestones, ensuring that future generations of LGBTQ+ individuals in McHenry County will enjoy a more equal and just society; and

Whereas, despite being marginalized throughout the history of the United States, LGBTQ+ individuals in the United States and McHenry County continue to celebrate their identities; Assuring that Pride Events are a celebration of visibility in spite of marginalization, the LGBTQ+ community will continue to observe this significant cultural practice; and

Whereas LGBTQ+ individuals in McHenry County remain determined to pursue full equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity:

Now let it be proclaimed that the McHenry County Board supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as “LGBTQ+”) individuals in McHenry County while acknowledging that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights to be protected by the laws of the United States and policies and practices in McHenry County .

The McHenry County Board therefore proclaims June 2023 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in order to provide a lasting opportunity for all individuals in McHenry County to explore the impact of discrimination and inequality that members of the LGBTQ+ community continue to endure.