

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING STAMFORD PRIDE
ON ITS FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, in 2019, Kristen Stiles, John Varamo, Jeff Brandi, Darren Carfano, and Lynne Colatrella got together to plan a singular, one-day event; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic put their plans on pause and caused them to re-evaluate the needs of the Pride community; and

WHEREAS, they transitioned into starting a 501C3 so that they could offer more support and visibility to the LGBTQIA+ community throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, they wanted to foster partnerships with local businesses and organizations that support the community, and thus Stamford Pride was formed; and

WHEREAS, Stamford Pride, an all-volunteer organization, hosts many events to bring the community together through quality programming for all ages including, but not limited to the following events during June (Pride month): a flag raising ceremony at the Government Center, Old Town Hall Lighting and Happy Hour, and Raise the Flag with Stamford Pride initiative (providing free Pride flags to area businesses); and

WHEREAS, during the rest of the year, Stamford Pride offers safe space training to educate local businesses on how to be welcoming and inclusive, Speed Friending Brunches / Professional Networking Happy Hours, Trivia Night, the "Pride in the Pews" event with First Congregational Church, Movie Meet-Ups including Avon Screening of "Pride," "Pride Shabbat" with Temple Sinai, and "Pride Rainbow Rave" (for high school students); and

WHEREAS, Stamford Pride also hosts monthly meetings for a 40+ LGBTQIA+ Networking Group, PFLAG Stamford / Stamford Pride Family Alliance, Young Adult Meet-Up (for high-school and college students), and People of Faith & Spirituality Meetup; and

WHEREAS, Stamford Pride launched its first annual History Project in October 2024 to honor the myriad achievements and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community that has enriched the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, it is important that everyone of all sexual and gender orientations feels safe and welcomed in the Stamford community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 31st Board of Representatives congratulates Stamford Pride on its five-year anniversary in our community and wishes Stamford Pride much success in the future.

*Approved by the 31st Board of Representatives
this 6TH day of November, 2024*

Jeff Curtis, President

Megan Cottrell, Clerk