



# Town of Orono

## PROCLAIMING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH

**WHEREAS,** More than fifty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City’s Greenwich Village took a courageous stand against harassment which led to a six-day riot that ultimately sparked the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning Plus (LGBTQ+) rights movement in our country; and

**WHEREAS,** Across the Nation, June has been declared Pride Month to commemorate these Stonewall Riots and the subsequent work towards achieving equal justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ Americans; and

**WHEREAS,** Through determination and dedication, this rights movement has shaped a society in which more LGBTQ+ Americans are living their lives openly; however, even with this progress, there is more work to be done as all LGBTQ+ individuals, youth, families, and seniors should be able to live their lives with dignity, respect, and free from the fear of harassment; and

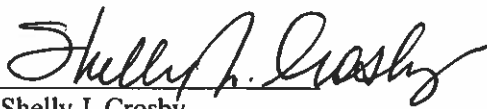
**WHEREAS,** The Town of Orono is committed to ensuring that all residents and visitors are treated with dignity and respect within our community regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression; and

**WHEREAS,** This month provides a welcome opportunity to reflect upon the adversity faced locally by LGBTQ+ residents--we remember Charlie Howard, a 23 year old gay man murdered in Bangor in 1984 because of his sexuality; and acknowledge the courage of Nicole Maines, who as a teen fought the inequality she faced in Orono which led to a landmark court decision supporting transgender rights--and acknowledge the incredible outpouring of visible support and creative efforts by Orono community members to recognize Pride Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Along with remembrance and accolades for those who have actively fought for LGBTQ+ rights, this month provides an opportunity for all people to recognize that as long as the promise of equality for all goes unfulfilled, all global citizens are affected.

**Now, Therefore,** I, Cynthia Mehnert, on behalf of the Orono Town Council, do hereby proclaim June as Pride Month in the Town of Orono, and urge all community members to work together to advance the principles of equal rights, justice, and opportunity for all of their fellow citizens regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression.

Given this the 15th day of June, 2020.

Attest   
Shelly J. Crosby  
Town Clerk

Signed   
Cynthia M. Mehnert  
Council Chair