

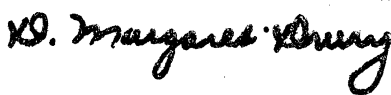
- RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge does hereby recognize Saturday, June 8, 2002, as the official Cambridge Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Day, and urges the citizens of Cambridge to recognize this special tribute by joining in the activities of the day and continuing their support for this critical part of our community; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation to the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, Arthur Lipkin and Robert DeBenedictis.

In City Council June 10, 2002.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- 

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

He is a co-founder of Cambridge Teachers for Better Schools and was the first teacher to be elected president of Cambridge High and Latin School Parent-Teacher Association. He is a founding member of the Cambridge High and Latin School Parent-Teacher Association. He is a founding member of the Cambridge Lavender Alliance and a founding member of an earlier organization, Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Alliance, and was active in the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee and Bay State Democratic Club. Arthur shares his robust life with his spouse of 17 years, Bob Ellsworth. Arthur and Bob celebrated their relationship with a commitment ceremony on September 19, 1992. Arthur is the son of Rose and Philip Lipkin and he honors his mother's memory each year bestowing the Rose Lipkin Award to a CRLS high school student who has improved life for LGBT students at the school. Truly a hometown kind of a guy, Arthur graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School in 1964 and from Harvard College in 1968. For all of his work on behalf of children and youth and his unwavering devotion to freedom, justice and equality, we honor and appreciate Arthur Lipkin; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge supports and celebrates bold steps to mobilize the will, the strength and the voices of the people and thus congratulates Cambridge resident Robert DeBenedictis for his leadership of the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts. Robert has revolutionized and vastly improved legislative advocacy on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Massachusetts. Through years of generous and dedicated service, Robert designed, developed, launched and maintains an online system that allows citizens to identify and contact their elected representatives to advocate for full equality under the law. Because of Robert's perseverance and vision, many thousands of people have lobbied their elected representatives and told the stories of their lives, all to realize the promise of our Commonwealth's Constitution that all of us shall be equal under its laws. Robert has served as the Co-Chair of the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts since 1999. In the early '90s, Robert was an active member of ACT UP in Boston and developed a prototype of the online advocacy system presently utilized by people in the Commonwealth, from the tip of the Cape to the Berkshires. Robert and his husband Don Picard live in Cambridge with their daughter Carmen, who is a beautiful and energetic three-year old. Robert and Don were married on National Coming Out Day in 1997 at Castle Hill in Ipswich, Massachusetts before a gathering of 200 family members and friends. Robert credits his activism for the freedom to marry to his irritation during the wedding planning when he became painfully aware that although his community would bless his marriage, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would not. The City of Cambridge deeply appreciates Robert's dedication to this important human rights issue and supports legal recognitions and protections of same-sex relationships and families headed by same-sex couples; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge hereby acknowledges the good works and valuable lives of Arthur Lipkin and Robert DeBenedictis, each of whose inspiring leadership vastly improves our city and life for all within it; and be it further



City of Cambridge

R-63

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2002

MAYOR SULLIVAN
 VICE MAYOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR DECKER
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR MAHER
 COUNCILLOR MURPHY
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR SIMMOONS
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The people of Cambridge are proud of all members of our community and have made a strong commitment to civil rights, and to ensuring that our community continues to build and maintain good relationships amongst us; and

WHEREAS: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Day commemorates the Stonewall Rebellion that is considered the beginning of the Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement, an evening in June 1969 when a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar on Christopher Street in New York's Greenwich Village, was vigorously and famously resisted by drag queens and bull dykes; and

WHEREAS: June 2002 marks the 33rd Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion; and

WHEREAS: In the City of Cambridge, our Pride in our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens is exemplified by the city's steadfast determination to keep its commitment to provide equal health care benefits to the family members of all city workers, regardless of marital status and to protect and defend all our residents regardless of their gender identity or gender expression; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Lavender Alliance, the Cambridge GLBT Employee Association, the Cambridge Employee Diversity Committee, with support from the Mayor's Office, will host the Twelfth Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Day Celebration by holding a community breakfast and awards ceremony at Cambridge City Hall on Saturday, June 8; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has been home to Arthur Lipkin for his entire life. For the past twenty-one years, Arthur has repeatedly distinguished himself as a leader and leading thinker in the field of secondary education. Arthur became the first openly gay public school teacher in the state of Massachusetts when he came out in 1981. He was profiled in a groundbreaking magazine article in Massachusetts Teacher in 1983. Arthur is a locally and nationally known advocate and expert on changing curriculum to include and reflect the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. He is the author of Understanding Homosexuality, Changing Schools and a forthcoming second book on gay and lesbian issues in education. Arthur currently serves as the director of Project 10 East, the gay/straight alliance at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, our local public high school. Arthur is a lifelong community activist on LGBT issues and Cambridge civic issues, having served on the board of the Cambridge Civic Association.

R-870

RESOLUTION #63

Recognizing Saturday, June 8, 2002,
as the official Cambridge Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride
Day and acknowledging the good
works and valuable lives of Arthur
Lipkin and Robert DeBenedictis.
**Mayor Sullivan and entire
membership**

In City Council June 10, 2002

ORDER ADOPTED.