



City of Cambridge

R-65.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2000

MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The citizens 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: 2000 marks the 31st 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

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Lavender Alliance will hold its Tenth Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Day Celebration by hosting a community breakfast and awards ceremony at Cambridge City Hall on Saturday, June 10th, and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has been home to the Honorable E. Denise Simmons for her entire life. Denise has served four terms on the Cambridge School Committee and currently is the only African American lesbian elected to public office in the United States. Prior to elected office, Denise served as the executive director of the Civic Unity Committee, the first citizen rights organization funded by the city. Denise attended Cambridge schools, earned an undergraduate degree at University of Massachusetts-Boston, and a graduate degree from Antioch College. Denise opened the Cambridgeport Insurance Agency in 1982. She is a dedicated photo archivist and family historian. As a member of our School Committee, Denise has worked to provide every child with the education and resources to become a productive member of society. In 1998, Denise, with the support of School Committee colleagues, established the position of family liaison to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender-headed families in the Cambridge School District, the first position of its kind in the United States. But her greatest accomplishment is her

family. She is the mother of four children; the late Anthony, Jada Danielle, N. Denise, and Atien P. Simmons. She's a proud grandmother to Azianna Denise Simmons; and

WHEREAS: While the City of Cambridge supports and celebrates the bold and unusual steps taken to confront bigotry, prejudice, and apathy, occasional shining examples of this excellent expression of humanity and citizenship demand special recognition. On January 28, 2000, a high school student from Boston High School was attacked on a subway train while other passengers sat passively observing this act of violence. The girl's attackers were reportedly motivated by anti-lesbian prejudice and animus. The 7th and 8th grade humanities class at our city's Graham and Park Alternative School read about the attack while studying the Holocaust in a unit called "Justice & Dissent." The students, being very moved by the accounts of the incident and greatly troubled by the reports of bystanders who failed to come to the aid of the student, did not mourn. They organized! With the careful guidance of humanities teacher Susan McCray, the school's only openly lesbian teacher, the Graham and Parks students organized a Ride Against Hate. Forty young people from the school marched on February 10th to Central Square, where they rallied and spoke out against bias crimes and apathy. Said one student, "If you let the little stuff go by, you let the big stuff go by." Then, the students rode the Red Line from Central Square to Park Street, leafleting passengers on the train and talking with them about the anti-lesbian incident and the failure of other passengers to intervene during the attack. In news accounts of the Ride Against Hate, the students said that they felt compelled to stand up to protect others in the community. Noting that silence is the voice of complicity, the 7th and 8th grade students from Graham and Parks School broke a deafening silence that had fallen over our community and refused to turn away from bigotry and prejudice, instead looking it right in the eye and speaking bravely to cowardice; respect to intolerance; justice to oppression; and love to hate; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge hereby acknowledges the good work and valuable life of the Honorable E. Denise Simmons, whose dedication to educational equity for all children and whose inspiring leadership vastly improves our city; and the City of Cambridge congratulates and honors the good people of the 7th and 8th grade at Graham and Parks Alternative School, whose Ride Against Hate sets a sterling example to us all to create change in our community and in our own hearts and minds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge does hereby recognize Saturday, June 10, 2000, 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 copies of this resolution for presentation to the Cambridge Lavender Alliance, The Honorable E. Denise Simmons, and the 7th and 8th grade humanities class at the Graham and Parks Alternative School.

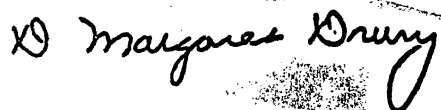
In City Council June 5, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

June 1, 2000

R65

MAYOR GALLUCCIO

WHEREAS: *The citizens 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*

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WHEREAS: *While the City of Cambridge supports and celebrates the bold and unusual steps taken to confront bigotry, prejudice, and apathy,*

occasional shining examples of this excellent expression of humanity and citizenship demand special recognition. On January 28, 2000, a high school student from Boston High School was attacked on a subway train while other passengers sat passively observing this act of violence. The girl's attackers were reportedly motivated by anti-lesbian prejudice and animus. The 7th and 8th grade humanities class at our city's Graham and Park Alternative School read about the attack while studying the Holocaust in a unit called "Justice & Dissent." The students, being very moved by the accounts of the incident and greatly troubled by the reports of bystanders who failed to come to the aid of the student, did not mourn. They organized! With the careful guidance of humanities teacher Susan McCray, the school's only openly lesbian teacher, the Graham and Parks students organized a Ride Against Hate. Forty young people from the school marched on February 10th to Central Square, where they rallied and spoke out against bias crimes and apathy. Said one student, "If you let the little stuff go by, you let the big stuff go by." Then, the students rode the Red Line from Central Square to Park Street, leafleting passengers on the train and talking with them about the anti-lesbian incident and the failure of other passengers to intervene during the attack. In news accounts of the Ride Against Hate, the students said that they felt compelled to stand up to protect others in the community. Noting that silence is the voice of complicity, the 7th and 8th grade students from Graham and Parks School broke a deafening silence that had fallen over our community and refused to turn away from bigotry and prejudice, instead looking it right in the eye and speaking bravery to cowardice; respect to intolerance; justice to oppression; and love to hate; now therefore be it

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Resolution #65

The Tenth Annual Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and Transgender Pride
Day Celebration community
breakfast and awards ceremony
will take place at Cambridge City
Hall on June 10th.
Mayor Galluccio

In City Council June 5, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED