

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMENDING The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center upon the occasion of hosting Westchester Pride on June 2, 2019

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and applaud those cultural events within the State of New York which serve to celebrate diversity, and in doing so, help to enfranchise minority populations within the larger community of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center upon the occasion of hosting Westchester Pride on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at the Court Street - Renaissance Plaza in White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion is held in conjunction with the observance of LGBT Pride Month, commemorating the Stonewall uprising, which occurred at the end of June of 1969; Westchester Pride is proud to be counted as one of the over 50 pride events and activities for the community throughout the month of June; and

WHEREAS, Westchester Pride will celebrate the impact LGBT people have made in not only New York State, but the entire world with a myriad of events such as all-day entertainment from performers including: Yuhua Hamasaki of RuPaul's Drag Race, Christina Picciano of All My Friends from Ossining, Vogue workshop and performance from Twiggy Pucci Garcon of the House of Comme des Garcon; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, The LOFT has strived to further the cause of inclusion, diversity, and pride through education, advocacy, and celebration; and

WHEREAS, The LOFT diligently works to provide a safe space in which everyone is respected, supported, and valued; ensure an inclusive and affirming environment which reflects its diverse identities; broaden knowledge about and for its community; foster awareness of issues which affect all members of its community and be responsive to their needs; be a forceful advocate for justice and positive, progressive change for all LGBT people; celebrate the past, present, and future of our culture and our contributions to society; and steadfastly fulfill its mission with dedication and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, Established In 1983, by Jenny Cummings, Robert Knight, Peter LoMonte, Phyllis Lynch, Frank Santoliquido, Susan Turner, and Mitchell Visoky, The LOFT was Westchester County's first and only LGBT center; and

WHEREAS, Ten years later, the center incorporated as a non-profit, charitable organization bearing the official name The LOFT: The Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, Inc.; programs and services were

steadily developing, a woman was elected LOFT Board President for the first time, and an Executive Director was hired; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing we all share a common cause, the lesbian and gay community forged a bond with the bisexual and transgender communities, and together, became one LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, During this time, The LOFT also funded an entirely volunteer-driven public access television show named "Forward & Out": featuring topics of interest and concern to the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, Today, The LOFT continues to meet the changing needs of its community by constantly updating and adding new programming; the center is strong and proud, and no matter the climate du jour, it will always move forward and continue to rise in pride; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center upon the occasion of hosting Westchester Pride on June 2, 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center.