

BY: Senator BASKIN

MOURNING the death of Michael Harmon and Jordan Celotto, beloved artists and advocates, and devoted members of their community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Michael Harmon and Jordan Celotto were such individuals; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Michael Harmon and Jordan Celotto, noting the significance of their purposeful lives and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Michael "Mickey" Harmon and Jordan Celotto of Allentown, New York, died on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the ages of 40 and 37, respectively; and

WHEREAS, In the heart of Allentown, the legacy of Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto is etched in the very fabric of the community they helped shape; their contributions are visible in public art, events, and the countless lives they touched through their selfless efforts; and

WHEREAS, From Harmon's "Stonewall Nation Mural" to "Charity," a piece created for Friends of the Night People, their art adorned the town and inspired many; however, those closest to them agree that it is the impact they had beyond the canvas—through their mentorship, passion, and unwavering support—that will be remembered most; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Harmon's boundless energy and commitment to the LGBTQ+ community was unmatched; his involvement with local LGBTQ+ organizations was extensive, with his contributions ranging from helping organize events to offering guidance to younger members of the community who often found in him a mentor and friend; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, Jordan Celotto, described by many as thoughtful and balanced, provided a grounding presence; together, they formed a powerful duo whose combined efforts made a lasting mark on Allentown; and

WHEREAS, The couple's impact extended beyond their artistic endeavors; since 2017, Mickey Harmon was an active member of the Allentown Association, where the pair was involved in organizing community events, including the annual Intersect event and Pride celebrations, often taking the lead in making these events happen; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, together, the two played pivotal roles in fundraising events, always showing up to offer support, guidance, and mentorship to the community, no matter how small the gathering; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Celotto, though quieter than Mickey, was just as integral to the community; his work as a bartender at Remedy House became a means to connect with more people, offering warmth and camaraderie to all who came through the door; and

WHEREAS, Jordan Celotto, along with Mickey, was also a familiar face at 26 Bar, where they helped host events and DJ, assisting in cultivating a space where people of all backgrounds could come together; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto's influence transcended their community; their efforts were not only about advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community but about a broader vision of a better, more inclusive Buffalo; this vision was evident in their work, in their friendships, and in their constant commitment to a greater cause; the love and admiration they earned were a reflection of their personal values-compassion, commitment, and care for the people around them; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Harmon and Jordan Celotto's contributions to Allentown and Buffalo will never be forgotten; their lives, defined by service, love, and creativity, will continue to inspire future generations, reminding us all of the power of community and the lasting impact of those who dedicate themselves to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Michael Harmon and Jordan Celotto, and to express its deepest condolences to their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the families of Michael Harmon and Jordan Celotto.