



# Proclamation



## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, Rita Hester, a transgender woman of color was murdered, this crime remains unsolved; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999, Gwendolyn Ann Smith organized the first Transgender Day of Remembrance in honor of Rita Hester and other transgender people who had lost their lives to violence; it has been observed every year since; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the *2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*, published by the National Center for Transgender Equality, nearly half of the transgender community had been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, and nearly one in ten had been sexually assaulted in the previous year; approximately one-third of transgender people in the United States has experienced homelessness; and nearly one-third were living in poverty, more than double the overall poverty rate; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2018 report released by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 50.8% of transgender male youth, 41.8% of non-binary youth, and 29.9% of transgender female youth have attempted suicide; and,

**WHEREAS**, the United States has one of the highest rates of murder of transgender people, particularly for women of color; in 2019 at least 27 transgender people were killed as a result of hate, fear, and violent attacks; and sadly, 2020 has already seen at least 32 persons killed, the majority of which were Black and Latinx; and

**WHEREAS**, around the world, many countries make it illegal for transgender people to live as their authentic selves; and

**WHEREAS**, there is significant incidence of misgendering or misnaming transgender victims of crime in police reports, indicating that the number of transgender victims of violence and murder is likely far higher than what is officially reported, and local law enforcement is not required to, and frequently fails to, report hate crimes, including murder, specific to the LGBT community; and

**WHEREAS**, transgender Americans are making historic progress, highlighted by nondiscrimination laws enacted in several states and an increasing number of transgender elected officials, signaling greater public support for transgender equality and respect for their contributions to society; Congress and the executive branch must follow suit and act to protect and preserve the lives of transgender individuals through inclusive legislation.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, do hereby declare Friday, November 20, 2020 as “**Transgender Day of Remembrance**,” in the Town of Carrboro. I ask all residents to reflect on the challenges facing the transgender members of our community, and work to ensure that social, cultural and legislative progress continues to be made so that all people will one day be able to safely live as their full and true selves.

This the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.



Lydia E. Lavelle, Mayor