



Proclamation

WHEREAS: Young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free of the violence of racism, transphobia, homophobia, sexism, ableism, and all forms of systemic oppression. K-12 schools must be safe and liberatory learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with disabilities, and from all communities that experience marginalization; and

WHEREAS: Advocates have designated 2023-2024 as a time for communities to Rise Up in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools. LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline. Over 90% of LGBTQI+ students reported hearing anti-LGBTQI+ remarks from Students in Florida schools. (GLSEN Navigator has the 2021 NSCS state school climate research snapshots); and

WHEREAS: LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression. Nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year. Over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills are introduced each year in state legislatures across the country; and

WHEREAS: 85% of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by state legislation restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health. Every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them; and

WHEREAS: Young people who develop in positive school climates, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes. Positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too a low bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in our schools. We must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools, including those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joy F. Cooper, Mayor of the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2023, as:

“Rise Up For LGBTQI+ Youth Day”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be fixed the Seal of the City of Hallandale Beach.

DATED this 26th Day of April 2023, A.D.



Joy F. Cooper, Mayor
City of Hallandale Beach