

**Holly Township Library Board of Trustees**

**RESOLUTION TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT INCLUSIVE AND NOT LIMITED TO THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY AT HOLLY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**

**WHEREAS**, Libraries are integral to building vibrant communities as centers of cultural celebration and a unifying destination for individual learning, personal enrichment, community engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, The Holly Township Library Board of Trustees is granted the authority to “Supervise and control library property” pursuant to Article I Section 5 of its Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, The Holly Township Library Board of Trustees has made a commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, belonging and freedom of information; and

**WHEREAS**, All citizens should be able to patron a library in a safe and inclusive environment free from discrimination, and that history has shown that civil rights laws are effective in contributing to such environments; and

**WHEREAS**, Explicit federal statute Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employment discrimination based on race, religion, national origin and sex, protections addressed discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, but only began to include sexual orientation and gender identity as of the Supreme Court long overdue interpretive ruling on June 15, 2020 to also cover LGBTQ+ workers indicates a continued under-representation and oppression of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Psychological Association and Department of Education brings to light a lack of awareness and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ children and youth contributing to a higher rate of isolation, depression, suicide, and suicidal ideations or attempts; and

**WHEREAS**, Knowledge through education regarding LGBTQ issues strengthens compassion and cultivates acceptance of, understanding and respect for LGBTQ children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Harassment and bullying policies that specifically mention sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are associated with: students feeling safer; lower levels of bullying; fewer incidents of harassment related to sexual orientation; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, The Holly Township Library supports current civil rights legislation and the supreme courts 2020 interpretive ruling, Department of Education guidance, APA statistical guidance in protecting all LGBTQ community members, specifically children and youth, and ensuring their equal access to public safety; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Holly Township Library supports legislation recognizing LGBTQ as a protected group and addresses discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Holly Township Library encourage state, local units, schools and councils to review policies in regard to bullying and support revisions and amendments to those policies that specifically address the topics of sexual orientation and gender identification/expression as they relate to harassment and bullying; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Holly Township Library encourages states to incorporate standards regarding age-appropriate, medically accurate and culturally sensitive information on LGBTQ issues into existing health and other appropriate curricula; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Holly Township Library supports legislation that creates a safe, supportive and accepting environment in the library, specifically protecting the rights of community members and youth that deal with the issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, henceforth.

Adopted Monday June 28, 2021

Holly Township Library Board of Trustees