



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY

Proclamation from the Mayor

WHEN DISCRIMINATION EXISTS, THERE ARE NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. THOSE WHO STAND BY WHILE OTHERS ARE MADE TARGETS OF DISCRIMINATION AND BIGOTRY MUST SHARE THE GUILT. HAVING FOUGHT LONG AND HARD AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND AND BELIEVING THAT OPPRESSION AND PERSECUTION OF ANYONE JEOPARDIZES EVERYONE, I AM ONCE AGAIN MOVED TO SPEAK OUT FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE, TOLERANCE AND PEACE ON BEHALF OF MY FRIENDS IN THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY. THE VALUE AND WORTH OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL MUST NOT BE TAMPERED WITH OR DIMINISHED BY A DOCTRINE BASED ON JUDGEMENT AND CONDEMNATION. AS MOTHER TERESA SAID, "WHEN YOU JUDGE PEOPLE, YOU HAVE NOT TIME TO LOVE THEM." RATHER, WE, AS A PEOPLE, IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY, SHOULD SPEND OUR ENERGIES ON RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER, ON LOVE, NOT HATE. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT DIVERSITY IS AN ASSET TO BE CELEBRATED NOT A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED. I URGE ALL CITIZENS TO ELIMINATE THE NEGATIVE ELEMENTS OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BIGOTRY, RACISM AND BIAS AND WORK TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY THAT MAXIMIZES THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND EVERY COMMUNITY.

MAYOR LENI SITNICK

Pride events schedule see pages 21-24