TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION
LAME DEER, MONTANA

RESOLUTION NO. DOI – 125 (2023)

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL DESIGNATING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council is the governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation by authority of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 31, 1996;

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 1(m) of the Amended Constitution, the Tribal Council is authorized to adopt resolutions to protect the health and general welfare of the Tribe;

WHEREAS, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe has a diverse membership and supports the full rights and privileges of all people without regard to sexual orientation or gender classifications;

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ2S+ community (which means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, Two-Spirit, and the "+" acknowledges other identities that are not included) has suffered from many forms of mistreatment;

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ2S+ community includes Two-spirit (also known as two spirit, 2S, or twospirited), which is an umbrella term for Native people who have both male and female spirits and acknowledges different gender identities present among Native people of North America;

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne language includes a specific term for Two-spirit persons, which is *Neše'evootsetane*, meaning half man, half woman;

WHEREAS, while there has been remarkable progress towards acceptance and equality, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community continue to face discrimination, intolerance, and hate;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, in particular our youth, when compared to their peers are far more likely to experience violence and bullying at school; to suffer from depression; to struggle with substance use; and to have attempted suicide;

WHEREAS, many tribal and non-tribal governments and organizations have recognized June as Pride Month, for the purposes of honoring the movement for LGBTQ2S+ rights and celebrating LGBTQ2S+ culture;

WHEREAS, to recognize the historical challenges of the LGBTQ2S+ and Two-spirit community, to strongly support and promote the rights of the LGBTQ2S+ and the Two-spirit community, to strongly encourage all members and especially the youth to positively self-identify, and to celebrate the LGBTQ2S+ and Two-spirit culture, the Tribal Council wishes to formally recognize June of each year as LGBTQ2S+ Pride Month (or simply "Pride Month") on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation;

WHEREAS, by formally recognizing June as Pride Month, the Tribal Council joins forces with many other tribal and non-tribal governments and organizations across the United States and the world that officially support the rights of the LGBTQ2S+ community; and

WHEREAS, by formally recognizing June as Pride Month, the Tribal Council intends to foster the just, fair, equal treatment and unlimited acceptance of the LGBTQ2S+ community on and off the Reservation each June and throughout each year; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe hereby designates and supports the month of June each year as Pride Month on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe affirms its support for LGBTQ2S+ persons among our membership and stands with them to protect their civil rights and their ability to live openly and without fear;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Northern Cheyenne Tribe urges all members, residents and visitors to build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance, promote positive self-identity among the youth, and support Two-spirit people – during this month and every month.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council by 10 votes for passage and adoption, 1 vote against passage and adoption, and 0 abstentions this 5th day of June, 2023.

Serena Wetherelt, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

ATTEST:

Edina Redstar, Secretary
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Noted:

_____
Superintendent