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MAR 31 2023

TIMOTHY C. IDONI
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 3 OF 2023

WHEREAS, Westchester County's community of residents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual/agender, or otherwise do not identify as heterosexual or cisgender ("LGBTQIA+") or identities within any sexual and gender minority status including but not limited to gender nonconforming, non-binary, pansexual, queergender, and Two-Spirit are vital participants in economic, civic, and social life in the County; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County has established its leadership in protecting its residents by adopting human rights and fair housing ordinances that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and protecting youth against persons holding themselves out as mental health professionals engaging in harmful treatment of so-called "conversion therapy;"

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the County of Westchester to affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the County and its communities must treat human rights in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized by Westchester County that LGBTQIA+ persons may be subjected to violence and multiple, systemic forms of discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sexual characteristics, and the way these grounds are compounded by, inter alia, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability or age, in private and public spaces, both online and offline; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years in other states across the United States there has been a troubling increase in policies and legislation being introduced, adopted, enacted and enforced, that harm LGBTQIA+ people, and in particular children and their parents, with most of the efforts being to deny equality, dignity and even medical treatment for transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary youth, and to impose bans on age-appropriate education on issues relating to sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, as of March 2022, some estimates showed that over 58,000 transgender youth are at risk of losing access to crucial care because of these state bans and policies, and many other youth are adversely affected by these state laws and policies. Research shows that access to gender-affirming care for transgender young people reduces risk for depression, psychological distress, and suicidal ideation which has increased to 50%. As many as 1 in 5 transgender and non-binary youths have attempted suicide. The rates for LGBTQ youths of color and those who are native/indigenous are greater. Criminalizing guardians and physicians who help these young people receive this critical care makes it even harder; and

WHEREAS, when left unchecked, hate towards LGBTQIA+ people and communities enables prejudice and active discrimination against multiple communities within societies, threatening the rule of law and human rights protections; and

WHEREAS, bigotry, violence, hate, antisemitism, racism, ableism, sexism, heterosexism, cissexism, and others forms of hate towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities have no place in Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, protecting the civil rights and liberties of LGBTQIA+ persons is a compelling County government interest; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting and encouraging dignity, respect and equality for all and will not tolerate hate towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities in any form;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Latimer, County Executive of the County of Westchester, in accordance with my statutory duties, do hereby order that all County Departments, agencies, boards, commissions and officials shall be guided by:

- The June 17, 2022 Federal Executive Order 14075 on Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals, and
- Resolution No. 50/10 of the United Nations General Assembly Human Rights Council adopted on July 7, 2022, to mandate protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and it is further
- **RESOLVED**, that it shall be the policy of all County Departments, agencies, boards, commissions and officials to: Enforce New York State and County laws designed to protect LGBTQIA+ individuals;

- Provide support for LGBTQIA+ individuals and families – to address discrimination, social isolation, and health disparities faced by LGBTQIA+ children, teens, adults, older adults and families;
- Educate County residents about identifying anti-LGBTQIA+ acts of violence, and available procedures for reporting such acts which have occurred or may occur in the County of Westchester;
- Provide support for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are victims of crime or acts of violence perpetrated against them on account of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sexual characteristics; and it is further

RESOLVED, that this Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise superseded or revoked.

Dated: March *31st*, 2023
White Plains, New York


GEORGE LATIMER,
County Executive