



City of Chicago



R2020-584

Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date:

7/22/2020

Sponsor(s):

Vasquez, Jr. (40)

Dowell (3)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Recognition extended to Affinity Community Services on 25th anniversary and work to advance liberation, equality and justice of Black LGBTQ+ community members

Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, This year marks the 25th anniversary of Affinity Community Services, formed in 1995 as a Black, queer led organization on Chicago's Southside to center Black queer women in the fight for Black liberation, LGBTQ+ justice, and community healing, and

WHEREAS, Affinity strives to center and uplift the most marginalized voices on Chicago's Southside to achieve an equitable Chicago and encourage radical acceptance of our most authentic selves, and

WHEREAS, After petitioning to march in the 1995 Bud Billiken parade, the largest parade for Black visibility, Affinity determined that it would be a non-profit organization to bring Black LGBTQ+ visibility to the community through a combination of educational, social, and community collaborations, and

WHEREAS, Affinity seeks to eliminate poverty, violence, and structural limitations to Black LGBTQ+ liberation through the advancement of justice in the intersecting areas of health, wellness, and safety, education, and civic engagement, and

WHEREAS, Affinity has many programs, such as COIL, Blackprint, Trailblazers, Midstreamers, Forty Plus, Proud Parents, and Spectrum, which offer support and safe spaces to the Black LGBTQ+ community, and

WHEREAS, Affinity offers a Black women led agency that includes comprehensive support services for Black queer and trans women whose experiences of systemic racism are heightened by the intersections of gender identity and sexuality, and

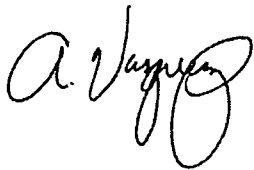
WHEREAS, Affinity recognizes the unique struggles of the Black LGBTQ+ community and strives to foster support for queer Black youth through support services to address health disparities, GED tutoring, tech workshops, financial management support, and encouraging participation in government and public policy, and

WHEREAS, Affinity has been recognized, honored, and awarded for several achievements such as the Bayard Rustin Award for Community service and social organization of the year, Ron Sable Award, New Spirit MCC Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Induction, National Affiliate Award, Community Empowerment Award, 15 Years of Service to the LGBTQ+ Community, PrideIndex Esteem Award, and

WHEREAS, We reflect on these indispensable contributions to the Black LGBTQ+ community on Chicago's Southside, recognizing Affinity's vital contribution to investing in marginalized communities upon their 25th year in service, and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, Mayor and City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled here this 22nd day of July, 2020, do hereby honor and celebrate the achievements of Affinity Community Services and their vision of a equity where every person has the desire, the support, and the right to be their authentic self while embracing differences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the Affinity Community Services as a symbol of our esteem for the organization's crucial work in advancing Black LGBTQ+ liberation, equality, and justice in our community, as we recognize the impact of their remarkable achievements over the past 25 years.



Andre Vasquez, Jr.
Alderman, 40th Ward



Pat Dowell
Alderman, 3rd Ward