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News

Mayor Ryan Holds Flag-raising Ceremony for LGBT Pride Month

6/1/2007

Mayor Matthew T. Ryan issued an executive order recognizing same-sex marriage in the City of Binghamton at a flag-raising ceremony today in front of City Hall for June Pride month.

The Mayor was joined by members of the Binghamton Pride Coalition, Pride and Joy families, 13, Southern Tier AIDS Program and members of the Metropolitan Community Church. Today's ceremony kicks off a month of events to celebrate and raise awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. "This is a chance to celebrate our community diversity, to reject any and all forms of prejudice, and to declare our commitment to the growing movement that advocates for equal protection under the law for all families," stated Mayor Ryan. In addition to reading the proclamation, Mayor Ryan also issued an executive order recognizing same sex marriages in the City of Binghamton. The City of Binghamton now joins many other New York municipalities—like Ithaca, Rochester, Albany and Nyack—that recognize same sex marriages legally performed in other states and jurisdictions. Mayor Ryan's executive order comes shortly on the heels of a similar ruling last month by the Civil Service Commission of New York State to recognize same sex marriages. A bill is pending in the New York State Assembly for marriage equality, and on May 17, a letter in support of the bill—signed by unions and labor federations representing more than 850,000 New Yorkers—was sent to all Assemblymembers. In 2004, the General Accounting Office of the Federal Government compiled and updated a list of 1138 rights related to civil marriage. The list includes thirteen categories of rights and benefits, including: Social Security and Related Programs, Housing, and Food Stamps; Veterans' Benefits; Taxation; Federal Civilian and Military Service Benefits; Employment Benefits and Related Laws; Immigration, Naturalization, and Aliens; Trade, Commerce, and Intellectual Property; Financial Disclosure and Conflict of Interest. "This is a matter of equal rights and strengthening family values," said Mayor Ryan. "We must guarantee that all couples who publicly express a life-long vow of love and commitment be afforded the same rights and welcomed in our communities without bias or prejudice." For more information and event listing for the June LGBT month please visit the Binghamton Pride Coalition website.

Additional Information:
www.binghamtonpride.org/

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