



## **RUSA Resolution 15S21-03**

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**Sponsors:** Executive Committee, Student Affairs Committee, University Affairs Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, Sexual Violence Education Committee

**Co-sponsors:** LGBTQ+ Coalition of the Assembly; Rutgers Queer Caucus; Douglass Governing Council; RU Progressive; Rutgers Democrats; Rutgers Undergraduate Entomology Club; Gavin Mayes, *Student Body President*; Nikhil Sadaranganey, *Student Body Vice President*; Bilal Yousuf Ahmed, *Parliamentarian*; Laura Esteban, *Deputy Secretary of RUSA, Douglass Governing Council Representative*

### **The LGBTQ+ Pride Events Act**

**Whereas,** LGBTQ+ Pride events are, both on and off-campus, essential safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community;

**Whereas,** Pride events are vital towards facilitating dialogue about LGBTQ+ rights and honoring the activism of queer individuals and events such as Marsha P. Johnson<sup>1</sup> and the 1969 Stonewall Riots<sup>2</sup>;

**Whereas,** Rutgers University has a long history of LGBTQ+ student advocacy, beginning with the establishment of the Homophile League by Lionel Cuffie in 1969<sup>3</sup>;

**Whereas,** it is the duty of the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA, or the Assembly) to advocate for the student body to which it represents;

**Whereas,** the LGBTQ+ community is an indispensable part of our Rutgers community;

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<sup>1</sup> "About Marsha P. Johnson." The Marsha P. Johnson Institute. Accessed June 19, 2021. <https://marshap.org/about-mpji/>.

<sup>2</sup> Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Stonewall riots." Encyclopedia Britannica, June 21, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Stonewall-riots>.

<sup>3</sup> "History of the Center for Social Justice Education & LGBT Communities." The Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities. Accessed June 19, 2021. <http://socialjustice.rutgers.edu/about-us/history/>.

***Whereas,*** the members of the LGBTQ+ Coalition of the Assembly (or the LGBTQ+ Coalition) is planning an LGBTQ+ pride event to take place on the College Avenue campus in mid-September or early October;

***Whereas,*** the aforementioned event is to be entitled the Pride After Pride Festival;

***Be it hereby resolved,*** that the LGBTQ+ Coalition is granted the authority to act on behalf of the Rutgers University Student Assembly towards the planning and execution of a possibly annual LGBTQ+ Pride event;

***Be it further resolved,*** that RUSA charges the relevant Executive Committee members and all Coalition leaders to discuss the power and structure of the coalitions and publish a recommendation of Standing Rule changes before the Fall 2021 Semester starts,

***Be it further resolved,*** regulations stipulated in this act shall be narrowly construed to affect matters outlined within this legislation, namely in regards to hosting events on behalf of the Rutgers University Student Assembly;

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Public Relations Committee is tasked with publicizing the upcoming Pride After Pride Festival event;

***Be it finally resolved,*** that the membership of the Rutgers University Student Assembly is encouraged to promote the forthcoming pride event, and that while members are not required to attend the event, their attendance and participation, whether as members of the LGBTQ+ Community or allies thereof, would be looked favorably upon by this Assembly.