

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Matthew Shepard, born in Casper, Wyoming on December 1, 1975, enrolled in Laramie at the University of Wyoming as a political science and international relations transfer student in 1998 and, identifying as gay, was active in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning and others (LGBTQ+) student organizations; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Shepard, known to many as a polite and caring person who cared about the environment, was tragically robbed, beaten, and left for dead on October 7th, eventually succumbing to his injuries on October 12, 1998; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 1998 a memorial service was held at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Casper, Wyoming with more than 700 people in attendance from around the world and a community of allies and caring citizens coming together to combat and protest this hateful act of murder, notably including the "Angels" from the surrounding community and University of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2009, the United States of America signed into law *The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act*, with Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, witnessing the official signing of the Act by President Barak Obama; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate the twenty years of progress that has occurred since the horrific tragedy of twenty years ago, a series of events and activities has been planned by the Matthew Shepard Memorial Group Sub-Committee of the Shepard Symposium on Social Justice Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, co-chaired by UW Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Emily Monago and undergraduate student Jess Fahlsing, the Sub-Committee has scheduled community and campus programs, discussions, curriculum and events remembering Matthew Shepard's impact on Laramie and Wyoming, the University of Wyoming, the LGBTQ+ community, and the entire country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laramie has led the effort to remember Matthew Shepard's life and legacy through adoption of Wyoming's first Non-Discrimination Ordinance in 2015, with many other communities following suit, including the Town of Jackson Hole's adoption of a Non-Discrimination Ordinance this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT I, ANDREA SUMMERVILLE, ACTING AS MAYOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING DO HEREBY:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGE the tremendous work of a host of groups and individuals that have promoted community initiatives that strive to erase hate and discrimination towards LGBTQ+ community members including Wyoming Equality, the Shepard Symposium Committee, the Matthew Shepard Foundation, the University of Wyoming and its student groups, Laramie County Community College-Albany County Campus, Laramie PrideFest, the Wyoming Gay Straight Alliance Network, Associated Students of the University of Wyoming;**
- 2. AFFIRM that the City of Laramie and University of Wyoming stand together in our collective commitment to stop hate, discrimination, injustice, and violence as we choose to remember the horrific and violent murder of an LGBTQ+ member of our town-and-gown community;**
- 3. And PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2018, as...**

MATTHEW SHEPARD 20TH MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE MONTH

... a month to remember the potentially deadly outcomes of hate toward any group of people based on sexual orientation, race, ability, gender identity, class, gender expression, immigration status, religion, skin color, and the many other ways in which we are diverse.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW SHEPARD'S LIFE AND LEGACY, AND IN AFFIRMATION THAT LARAMIE STANDS NOW AS A STRONGER COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE A SAFE, OPEN AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF LARAMIE, WYOMING ON THIS 2ND DAY OF OCTOBER 2018.

**Andi Summerville
Mayor**