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SALISBURY PRIDE RESCHEDULED DUE TO COVID-19 TO JUNE 25, 2022

The Salisbury Pride Parade and Festival is a critical community building event purposed to increase visibility, celebrate diversity, strengthen alliances, and advance equality. In order to deliver the best event possible, and in consultation with the City of Salisbury, the Salisbury Pride planning team has made the decision to cancel the 2021 Salisbury Pride Parade and Festival and reschedule the event for June 25, 2022.

Organizing a free, large-scale outdoor event that includes a parade, full line-up of on-stage entertainment, vendors, food trucks, a beer and wine garden, roaming acts, and a kid's zone with crafts and drag queen story hour is a significant undertaking. The uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, compounded by ongoing gathering restrictions, are posing significant obstacles to the event planning process and at this time, there is no guarantee that an event with an anticipated attendance in the thousands is feasible for June 2021. After consulting with the City of Salisbury, and with thoughtful consideration to our various constituents; namely, sponsors, volunteers, performers, parade participants, vendors, municipal partners, and local businesses — the Pride planning team has decided to reschedule the event for June of 2022. We believe this decision will allow us to plan, and deliver the best Salisbury Pride Festival possible which includes grand marshal, international recording artist CeCe Peniston.

Pride Month 2021 will not be completely devoid of activities. Salisbury Pride and its parent organization, Salisbury PFLAG, will be organizing a number of smaller scale events this June. More information about these activities will be forthcoming.

According to the Director of the Salisbury Pride Planning Committee and Executive Director of Salisbury PFLAG, Mark DeLancey "while we understand this news may come as a disappointment to many, we felt it was prudent to ensure public safety, as well as guaranteeing individual confidence of all attending this groundbreaking event." Nicole Hollywood, a member of the Salisbury Pride Planning Committee, added "for our inaugural year it is imperative that we deliver an outstanding event that best expresses the progress being made in the City of Salisbury. The Covid-19 pandemic has hindered our capacity to plan, and deliver, the event we imagine and the decision by the planning team to move our inaugural year to

2022 means that there will be no compromise in quality. We will still be celebrating Pride this June, it will just be done with a number of smaller events”.

The mission of Salisbury Pride is “To commemorate our heritage and history, celebrate our community, and advance the equality of LGBTQ+ people.” The goals of the event are to celebrate the City of Salisbury's commitment to increasing visibility of LGBTQ+ people, represent the wide diversity of people in our LGBTQ+ community here on the Shore, build and strengthen alliances with our allies, acknowledge the heritage and legacy of LGBT+ people, and to work towards our full equality and liberation.

More information about the Parade and Festival can be found on the Salisbury Pride website at www.SalisburyPrideParade.com. On the website, individuals can also register an individual, or as a group to walk in the parade; entertainers can inquire about performing; vendors can enlist; and people can get involved as volunteers.

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