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## **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton is committed to diversity and inclusion, being a place that is accepting, and supportive of all individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton enjoys both the rewards of diversity and the vibrancy of our community as a result of it; and

**WHEREAS**, equality for all men and women regardless of their race, color, creed or sexual orientation is intrinsic to the values that make us Appletonians; and

**WHEREAS**, National Coming Out Day honors the invaluable contributions of LGBTQ individuals and those involved in the October 11, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights which helped establish lesbian and gay rights as a fundamental issue of civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, National Coming Out Day promotes a safe space for LGBTQ individuals to live truthfully and openly; and is a reminder that public celebration of LGBTQ identity is encouraged and that the underlying universal ideals of honesty, acceptance, and commitment to equality must be shared by all individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, Appleton adopted an ordinance prohibiting housing discrimination based on gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, City Council member Vered Meltzer became the first openly transgender elected official in Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, Reiko Ramos is a champion for LGBTQ youth and 2018 graduate of Lawrence University who serves as the Program Leader for The LGBT Partnership Fox Valley Group providing ongoing leadership development in support of youth ages 14-18 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied; and

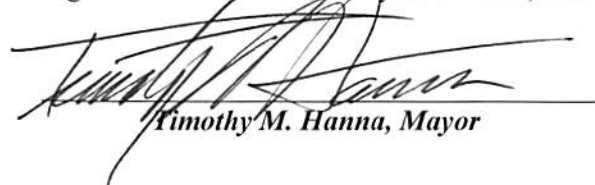
**WHEREAS**, on October 11, 2019, the rainbow flag will be displayed at Appleton City Hall and participants will wear pride symbols with participating businesses displaying rainbow flags, as well.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, TIMOTHY M. HANNA**, Mayor of the City of Appleton, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2019 as

### ***National Coming Out Day***

in the city of Appleton and urge our citizens to honor, celebrate and promote equal rights to all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Signed and sealed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2019.



**Timothy M. Hanna, Mayor**

