

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE, AUSTIN TYLEC**

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Ortt serves in the capacity of Minority Leader of the New York State Senate and representative of the 62nd district, covering North Tonawanda in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, North Tonawanda is a diverse city, made up by residents of every race, sexuality and nationality; and

WHEREAS, all residents of North Tonawanda deserve proper representation through all facets of government at every level; and

WHEREAS, the Lockport Union-Sun & Journal posted an article on June 23 referencing backlash from a fellow NYS Senator that the Minority Leader received for donations made to the New Yorkers Family Research Foundation; and

WHEREAS, NYS Senator Brad Hoylman, the aforementioned senator, stated, "It's outrageous that the new Republican leader has given money to a well-known homophobic organization that peddles hate against LGBTQ people;" and

WHEREAS, the NYFRF openly and publicly expresses anti-LGBTQ views on their website, claiming that "when a man claims to be a woman or a woman claims to be a man, such claims are dishonest;" and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body passed a resolution in 2019 denouncing evil, hatred and bigotry towards any and all in our community, acknowledging that there is no place for discrimination in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Minority Leader's spokesman has publicly stated, "Whenever you give to a group, no one ever aligns perfectly with everything the group believes in;" and

WHEREAS, the residents of North Tonawanda have been vocal in their request for clarification on what views the Senator shares with the NYFRF.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of North Tonawanda stands with the Stonewall Democrats of Western New York in expressing gratitude for the Senator's openness and ease of accessibility whilst encouraging the Senator to continue this policy by answering the requests of his constituency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in hearing the outcry of the members of our great city, this Honorable Body acting as their representative, does hereby request a statement of clarification from the Minority Leader of the NYS Senate, Robert Ortt, regarding his stance on LGBTQ rights in our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Common Council be directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Robert Ortt, the Stonewall Democrats of Western New York, and Donald Wittcop, Jr.