

**Resolution authorizing a grant agreement with Stonewall Columbus to support year-round programming and the 2025 Pride Festival and March. (Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) (\$276,000.00)**

**WHEREAS**, Stonewall Columbus is a cornerstone organization in Franklin County, dedicated to uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community through a variety of year-round programs and services that promote economic empowerment, health, family creation, civic engagement and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Pride Festival and March, a signature event organized by Stonewall Columbus, is a celebration of diversity, inclusion and community pride that attracts hundreds of thousands of participants and visitors each year, drawing positive attention to Franklin County as a hub of equality and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs and events not only uplift the LGBTQIA+ community but also benefit Franklin County residents by fostering a culture of inclusivity, promoting social equality, contributing to the region's economic and cultural vitality with the Pride March & Festival having an attendance of over 700,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the programming aspect of this grant will support approximately 5000 individuals, 24 years old and up, that identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Franklin County and surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is committed to promoting equality and fostering welcoming and affirming spaces as we recognize the resilience and determination of the many individuals who are fighting to live freely and authentically; and

**WHEREAS**, love wins, now, therefore;

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY OHIO:

1. That consistent with the provisions of Section 305.30 of the Ohio Revised Code, the County Administrator is hereby authored to execute an agreement with Stonewall Columbus, Inc. consistent with the resolution.
2. That the attached purchase order in the amount of \$276,000.00 that is individually described on the accompanying Purchase Order Proof List is hereby approved.

AGENCY

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

CONTRACT AMOUNT

\$276,000.00

Prepared by Perla Martinez