



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

June 12, 2017

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I take this moment to pause and remember the 49 lives stolen one year ago today, and support all of those impacted by the tragic events at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando.

There will never be any words any of us can say to make sense of the unimaginable atrocity the world witnessed on June 12, 2016 but there will always be more we can do to combat the stereotypes and prejudice that allows for a group of people to be stigmatized and targeted for violence. This massacre was an attack on our most fundamental values – values that we share as Chicagoans and as Americans. It was an attack on culture and community. It was an attack on life, on love, and on our inherent liberties therein. So, in honoring the lives and legacies of those taken we are challenged to stand up against violence and speak out against hate.

We know this was not just an attack on one city or one venue. It was an attack on all of us. We know that many victims of this horrific massacre were mostly Puerto Rican and Latino. So today we stand in solidarity not just with the LGBT community but also with the Latino community. Today, and every day, we must stand up for everyone who feels marginalized and let them know that they are a part of our Chicago family. Whether it is educating ourselves, facilitating dialogue with those around us, or volunteering with a local outreach effort, we can mark progress. It will always be incumbent upon us to ensure our relatives and neighbors, and our children and children's children live in a society where they can simply be who they are. For they must know they matter – to the futures of Chicago, this nation, and the world.

Let us find strength in the power and promise of a people during this Pride Month. Let us find comfort in the impact those 49 will continue to have in bolstering culture, community, and change. Because where there is hate, we bring love. Where there is intolerance, we show compassion. And where there is fear, we stand for hope. And we will press forward – together – for every victim and every survivor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor