



www.iowacitypride.org

IOWA CITY PRIDE
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DATE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

IOWA CITY, IA— The Iowa City Pride Board of Directors made the tough decision to cancel the 2020 Pride parade and festival. The events were originally scheduled for Friday June 19 and Saturday, June 20, but will not take place as planned.

The uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified in recent weeks, and the organization has concluded that the risk to public health of a large-scale gathering such as Pride preclude this year's production of the annual event.

The 2020 celebration was to be the 50-year celebration of a group of LGBTQI+ students marching in the University of Iowa Homecoming parade which paved the way for Iowa City Pride. While 2020 Pride is canceled, there are still plans to participate in the fall homecoming parade and participate in the virtual pride that many cities are organizing for June 27 of this year, and perhaps some smaller events along the way.

This decision was ultimately very difficult and disappointing for many of us to make, especially knowing that so many of our community members need to hope of things returning to normal and Pride festivities could be a large part of healing from this trying time.

Pride president, Anthony Sivanthaphanith stated, "I know what Pride means for Iowa City and to the LGBTQ+ community around Iowa and the world. Our decision did not come lightly. Many conversations with city officials, other large events and healthcare professionals led to our decision. We know this comes with many disappointments, cancelled plans and one less thing to look forward to. It breaks my heart and the board's heart as well.

Many small businesses are working indefinitely to recover and the future and safety of large-scale events for the rest of this year still uncertain, it is in the best interest of the community and our organization to throw our official 50th pride celebration in 2021.

Sivanthaphanith said, "Ultimately, the safety of all our communities is the most important. Pride is more than 'June', it is something we can celebrate every day. The board looks forward to planning more events soon and some creative ways, virtually, to celebrate like joining other Pride organization for "Virtual Global Pride" June 27th."

All current sponsors and registered vendors for Pride 2020 will rollover to next year's pride celebration automatically unless they contact Iowa City Pride with questions.

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