



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO HONOR RICHARD
PFEIFFER**

City recognizes and pays tribute to longtime gay rights activist

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today introduced a resolution honoring Richard Pfeiffer, a steadfast activist who fought for representation and empowered LGBTQ people in Chicago to live openly. Pfeiffer passed away on October 6, 2019 at the age of 70 and will be remembered as a legendary advocate, mentor and friend. He is survived by his husband of 48 years and countless friends in the LGBTQ+ community and throughout Chicago.

The resolution recognizes the positive impact Richard Pfeiffer had on Chicago's LGBTQ+ community, and the indelible legacy he leaves behind.

"Richard was a living example of the power of speaking out and fighting for what you know is right," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Richard was a tireless LGBTQ+ rights activist, whose boundless energy led him to lead countless advocacy groups over the past few decades. Perhaps Richard's greatest legacy lies in Chicago's own iconic Pride Parade, which he worked to organize and helped to become the overwhelming celebration of love and acceptance that it is today."

Pfeiffer is best known as the lead organizer of Chicago's annual Pride Parade since 1974. In this past year, the event drew hundreds of thousands of spectators, is most well attended in history, and marked its 50th anniversary.

"Chicago and our LGBT community lost a champion. Rich Pfeiffer dedicated his life to LGBT activism and service," said Alderman Tom Tunney, 44th Ward. "The decades he gave organizing the Chicago Pride Parade helped make it one of the nation's most popular celebrations of diversity and acceptance. We owe a lot to Rich and will forever honor the legacy he leaves behind. My thoughts remain with his husband Tim Frye and his family."

He also headed the Chicago Gay Alliance, which operated the City's first gay community center, and founded the Gay Activist Coalition at Harold Washington College, which was the first LGBTQ+ group at a City Colleges of Chicago campus.



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During the mid-1970s, he served as president of Gay Horizons, now Center on Halsted, the largest LGBTQ+ community center and social services agency in the Midwest. He also served as coordinator of the Gay Speaker's Bureau since 1972, facilitating and participating in speaking engagements at high schools, universities, churches, and civic groups throughout the city.

Pfeiffer continued to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community by penning a monthly column for three years for *Chicago Gay Crusader* and a weekly column for *GayLife* throughout the late 1970s.

In 1985, Mayor Harold Washington appointed him as a founding member of the Committee on Gay/Lesbian Issues. Later, he was reappointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to serve on the reconstituted Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. He was also a member of Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

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