

Danie Fortin, she/her

In reading the minutes from the last city council meeting I noticed that the motion to fly a Pride flag had been tabled. As a queer member of the Biddeford community I wanted to speak in support of displaying the flag. Since its creation in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, the rainbow flag has been a symbol of the LGBTQIA+ community. Since its inception Pride flags have been a visible symbol of representation, with the newest version, the Progress Pride flag highlighting the inclusion of people of color, trans individuals, and those who have died from AIDS.

Displaying the flag means that members of the LGBTQIA+ community are recognized and seen. Something that is vital for youth just determining their identities. Flying the Progress Pride Flag would show that Biddeford sees its LGBTQIA+ community and recognizes them. Biddeford flies the Irish flag in support of St. Patrick's Day and Irish heritage. People in the LGBTQIA+ community should have the same recognition.