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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe and Rahway City Council Partner with Rahway Social Justice Commission for 2024 Rahway Pride: A Community Celebration

RAHWAY, NJ (June 6, 2024) – Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe and the Rahway City Council are thrilled to partner with the Rahway Social Justice Commission to present 2024 Rahway Pride: A Community Celebration. This event series aims to promote inclusivity and honor the contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The month-long programming for Pride Month 2024 kicked off with a Pride Flag Raising ceremony at City Hall Plaza on Saturday, June 1st at 10:00 AM. Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe was joined by the Rahway City Council, the Rahway Social Justice Commission, and Cholao ¡EI P'TAS!

"We are so proud to support the Rahway Social Justice Commission in their continued efforts to promote vibrant and necessary discussions around social justice issues," **said Mayor Raymond A. Giacobbe.** "This month, we celebrate the invaluable contributions of LGBTQIA+ community members in Rahway while also acknowledging the often painful history of the gay liberation movement. As we pay respects to the LGBTQIA+ trailblazers that paved the way, we reaffirm our commitment to fight for the continued acceptance and celebration of all people, regardless of gender identity, gender presentation, assigned sex, or sexuality."

On Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 PM the Rahway Social Justice Commission will host the "We Say Gay" Pride Panel Discussion, which will take place at Hamilton Stage at 360 Hamilton St, Rahway, NJ 07065. This panel will showcase various local and state leaders as they discuss their roles in influencing or administering policy and how they work to create inclusive and equitable environments for the LGBTQIA+ community.

"As the first LGBTQIA+ woman to be elected to City Council, I am so proud to co-host this year's "We Say Gay" panel with Rahway Social Justice Commissioner Jessie Wilson," **said Councilwoman Danni Newbury.** "It is vital that we do all we can to create spaces to learn and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community in Rahway."

On Thursday, June 27th, neighbors are invited to join the City for Aloud! a Socially Aware Reading Series at the Rahway Public Library Cafe at 6:00 PM. This series, a collaborative effort between The City of Rahway, The City of Rahway Social Justice Commission, Union County, and the Rahway Special Improvement District, aims to provide education and resources while focusing on using literature and storytelling as tools to seek equity and justice.

"It is long overdue for our beloved community to listen, learn, and be enlightened as we gain understanding during Pride Month," **said Rev. Dr. Marti Robinson, Esq., D.Min., Chairman of the City of Rahway's Social Justice Commission.** "It should be common sense that every single person - Straight, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual - deserves to be treated with acceptance, inclusion, and respect based on the letter of the law and in the mind, heart, words, actions, and spirit of our society."

The 2024 Rahway Pride serves as a testament to Rahway's dedication to fostering a truly inclusive and accepting community. It is an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to come together, be loud, be proud, and have open and honest conversations surrounding LGBTQIA+ experiences.

For more information about the 2024 Rahway Pride, please visit www.cityofrahway.org/506/Pride

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