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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Bristol CT) June 8, 2020

Bristol Continues to Highlight Diversity, Inclusion and Equity on Tuesday and Wednesday

(BRISTOL, CT) – The City of Bristol kicks off Pride Month with the **second annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony** on Tuesday June 9, at City Hall. Beginning at 5:30pm, the Mayor, City Council members and the community will join together to commemorate LGBT Pride Month by raising the Pride Flag at 6pm. Scheduled speakers include BEHS Class of 2020 graduate Luke Ashworth, who is also celebrating his 18th birthday on Tuesday; Andrew & Ken Rasmussen-Tuller who are raising 3 children in Bristol that they adopted from the Dept. of Children and Families; Xia'ian Carrasco, a 2018 graduate of Bristol Central and a current Dean's List student at Southern Connecticut State University and Bristol resident Donovan Shaw, a young African-American gay male who graduates Thursday from Kinsella Performing Arts Magnet school in Hartford and will attend Western Connecticut University for a Bachelors in Musical Theater.

The ceremony is being sponsored by the Mayor's Office and the City's Arts & Culture Commission, as well as with support from the Diversity Council. It is a free event that is open to the public and will incorporate appropriate social distancing measures. Those wishing to attend may park in the former Centre Mall parking lot.

On Wednesday, the Mayor and members of the City Council will sponsor a **Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** at the Rockwell Park amphitheater beginning from 6:30pm-8:30pm. The event is free and open to the public and the topics are appropriate for people of all ages and races. There will be a general city overview, small group discussion, and a community building icebreaker, to name a few of the activities planned. Those attending are encouraged to bring a chair, bug spray, and their own writing supplies. This event is also being co-sponsored by the Bristol Police Department, the Diversity Council, and the Board of Education's Equity Leadership Team.

"We want Bristol residents to know that racism and equity are serious issues and that we are listening," said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. "Following the two peaceful protests we had last week, we wanted to continue the conversation and harness the energy that we are seeing for positive community improvements as well as to continue building upon the community policing model we have been building for the last several years."

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