



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICES OF DANIEL DROMM AND JIMMY VAN BRAMER*

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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Dromm and Van Bramer Queens Gay Pride Grand Marshals

Jackson Heights, NY, May 27, 2010 -- The Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (QLGPC) is proud to announce the selection of two remarkable individuals as grand marshals for the 18th Annual Queens Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Parade and Festival which will be held on Sunday, June 6, 2010 in Jackson Heights.

The grand marshals are NYC Council Members Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), and Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside). The parade organizers chose the grand marshals because as newly elected leaders, and as the borough's first two openly gay City Council Members, they reflect the growing acceptance of the LGBT community and the strides the gay community has made in and out of the borough of Queens.

With "One Heart. One World. One Pride." as this year's international theme, the parade kicks off at noon in Jackson Heights and starts at 85th Street and 37th Avenue, and goes down 37th Avenue, ending at 75th Street where it disperses into a festival. The Multicultural Festival runs from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM and is held on 37th Road stretching from 73rd to 77th Street.

Dromm, who in 1992 courageously came out as an openly gay public school teacher is the parade's founder and a former co-chairperson of the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee. Deeply committed to civil rights and social justice, Dromm now continues to fight against prejudice, discrimination and violence as a member of the New York City Council.

"When we started this parade we wanted everyone to know that we, in the LGBT community, are their friends and neighbors, their family members and co-workers. What's special about this year's parade is that for the first time in Queens, we're also their City Council Members," said Council Member Daniel Dromm. "In many ways this parade has opened the hearts and minds of Queens residents to make this moment possible."

Before joining the City Council, Van Bramer worked as a reporter for Lesbian and Gay New York (LGNY), now Gay City News, a community newspaper, where he brought attention to the AIDS epidemic and bias/hate crimes. He is also a former board member of Empire State Pride Agenda.

"I am truly honored to be Co-Grand Marshal of this year's Queens Gay Pride Parade with Councilman Dromm," said Council Member Van Bramer. "This parade is about embracing the beauty of diversity and celebrating equality."

This year's celebration is expected to attract the largest crowd ever, with attendance exceeding more than 50,000 people. Originally conceived in 1993 as a response to the homophobic attacks on the Queens lesbian and gay communities by School Board 24 President Mary Cummins, the Queens parade has become a wonderful mixture of party and politics welcomed by the local community. The Queens celebration is the first in a series of very special events that kick off a month of Pride activities citywide.

The Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee is the borough's largest multi-service LGBT organization.

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