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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**NYC Council Member Dromm Celebrates
President Obama's Proclamation for LGBT Pride Month**
Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival to Kick-Off NYC Celebrations

Jackson Heights, NY, June 2, 2011 -- Openly gay New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm celebrated President Barack Obama's recent proclamation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

"I am delighted President Obama has given the LGBT community this recognition," said Dromm (D-Queens). "I also applaud his administration's efforts to fulfill our country's promise of equality as we strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination wherever it exists in our lives. I look forward with great excitement to kicking off a month of Pride celebrations right here in my own community."

In Queens, the 19th Annual Queens Pride Parade and Multicultural Festival for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and allied communities will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2011.

"Queens Pride is thrilled by the President's proclamation and is pleased to host the kick-off for the month of Pride celebrations in New York City," said Chis Calvert, Co-chairperson of Queens Pride, the festival organizing committee. "Our parade offers LGBT organizations a real opportunity to draw awareness and visibility. While we continue to grow each year, we believe that Queens Pride stays close to its roots as a rallying cry for the continued advancement of the LGBT community in our borough and beyond."

Dromm, the parade's founder, added "this parade has served to open the hearts and minds of not just residents from Queens but also the hearts and minds of people all around the world."

The Parade kicks - off at 12PM on 37th Avenue from 85th Street to 75th Street in Jackson Heights.

This year's Grand Marshals will be Claire Buffie - Miss New York 2010, NYS State Senator Tony Avella and SALGA (South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association). They will be honored for their efforts and achievements and for their work in advancing the LGBT cause.

Buffie, herself is a straight ally for the gay rights movement. As Miss New York 2010, she is the first in the 90-year history of Miss America, to promote the social platform, "Straight for Equality, Let's Talk." She travels the state speaking to school children of all ages about acceptance, tolerance and anti-bullying measures being developed to help protect vulnerable youth.

Following the parade, a multicultural festival will be held from 12PM to 6PM on 75th Street and 37th Road between 74th and 77th Streets and will feature two stages with a variety of entertainment and more than 60 vendors.

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