

Appendix 2a: Study Invitation– Invitation to Focus Group



Dear Greenburgh Pride Community:

I am Mackenzie (Z) Paige Lerario, MD, and I am the founding director of Greenburgh Pride. *Together with my fellow researchers, Francis P Furmanek III, LCSW and Suzanne Marmo, LCSW, PhD from Sacred Heart University, and Tina Maschi, LCSW, PhD from Fordham University, we are inviting you to participate in a research study about experiences of LGBTQ people in Greenburgh, NY.*

Why are you receiving this invitation?

You are receiving this invitation because you were selected from event, programming, and/or survey membership lists affiliated with Greenburgh Pride. Neither your name nor your email address or social media accounts have been provided to anyone outside of our organization.

What you will be asked to do if you participate:

If you choose to participate in this part of the study, we will conduct a community forum/focus group through the web-conference service *zoom.com* on a password protected platform and you may choose to participate with audio only or video and audio. With your permission, the focus group will be audio recorded only to ensure accuracy.

The focus group will include open-ended questions about your experiences as a LGBTQ person living within Westchester County. The questions will be about your perception of different factors that impacted your ability to feel supported, connected, represented, and safe within the town of Greenburgh, NY and Westchester County. During the community forum focus group we will also ask your input to help us design a needs assessment survey to be distributed at a later time to other members of the community.

The focus group is expected to take approximately 2 hours to complete and approximately 14 other community members will participate in your focus group.

Voluntary Participation

Participating in the study is voluntary. If you prefer not to participate, that is understandable and will have no impact on your relationship with Greenburgh Pride or our events, programming, and services. I understand that you are busy and this may not be a convenient time for you to participate in the focus group. You may stop your participation at any time and withdraw from the study. You may choose to skip any questions you prefer not to answer. There would be no negative feelings if you choose to do so.

To thank you for your time:

All participants who are chosen to participate in focus group will be given a \$20.00 Visa gift card.

What are the potential risks to me of participating? Participation in this study is not expected to present any risk greater than discomfort if you recall an unpleasant detail about your experiences. Should you experience any feelings of distress during the focus group or after, I or a member of the research team will be available for debriefing and help you find resources for further support.

Confidentiality

Your confidentiality will be protected to the full extent of the law. You will be assigned a study code number. The digital file with the recording of the focus group will be labeled only with the study code number and deleted after transcription. No names or other information that you could identify you or anyone else will be included in the transcribed interview. The list of study participants' names and study code numbers will be kept on a password-protected computer in the researcher's locked office. When the study is completed the list will be deleted. Your name will not be used in any report.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this research study, you may contact me, Dr. Mackenzie (Z) Paige Lerario, at mackenzie.lerario@greenburghpride.org or (914) 372-6190.

If you are interested in participating

If you are interested in participating in this focus group, please complete the voluntary participant form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/pY4rLj8U8LxVub4B7>



If you prefer not to participate at this time, you need do nothing.

Thank you for considering participation in this study. Please retain a copy of this message for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPL', is written over a horizontal line.

Mackenzie (Z) Paige Lerario, MD
Greenburgh Pride

Appendix 2b: Informed Consent Form for Focus Group

To be read at start of focus group:

Welcome, if you choose to participate in this part of the study, we will be conducting a community forum focus group through the web-conference service *zoom.com* on a password protected platform. You may choose to participate with audio only or video and audio. With your permission, the focus group will be audio recorded only to ensure accuracy.

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If you are interested in participating

If you are interested in participating in this study, please remain in this zoom room. If you prefer not to participate at this time, please leave the zoom room now.

Thank you for considering participation in this study.