From: Julie Anne Stamps
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Civil Rights Concerns
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:49:11 AM

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Mr McFarland,

I am writing to you in response to the letter that was sent to the organizers of Boro Pride. I'm extremely concerned because this looks like clear discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. We as a community have been fighting for our civil rights for years and it is heartbreaking to know that in my own city, I don't feel accepted, wanted, and safe. For the past few years, Murfreesboro City seemed to be taking great strides in acceptance and equality, but I have clearly been mistaken. Boro Pride is a widely sponsored and supported event, the city has made a massive mistake in banning this festival. While your personal opinions may conflict with the existence of our community and therefore Boro Pride, we have a civil right to gather with our community. This is an event that my partner and I take our children to where they can experience other family dynamics like ours. Taking away Pride is taking away my family's right to celebrate who we are.

The letter expresses concerns about exposing children to "innapropriate sexual content" yet our kids are exposed to heterosexual content all the time... in fact you still allow Hooters in Murfreesboro. That's allowed because we as parents have the **right** to choose where we take our children and what we will allow them to be exposed to. Parents also have the **right** to choose whether they take their children to a drag show or to Pride. This is clearly blatent discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community and it is abolutely unacceptable.

We as a community have been fighting for our rights as long as we have existed, that is not ending anytime soon. You have upset an incredible community of people. Take your personal feelings out of this and give back our civil right to exist and to gather.

Julie Anne Stamps