From: Laura Rasmussen
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Give BORO pride a Chance
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 1:24:10 PM

> You don't often get email from laura.rasmussen1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Thank you for your email. I believe Murfreesboro is a place that has the potential to grow as a safe haven for all of us. Keeping an open mind on the topic will help the community. I do agree that aspects of sexuality on display are not appropriate and urge an open dialogue tonight with anyone voicing concerns. As you know, events like the Colorado Shooting are in our communities recent traumas. Having Murfreesboro City support and understanding of our sensitivity is important.

We need to feel like you have our interest in mind and simply clarifying is very helpful as words hurt and judgement on our community needs to end.

Have a safe evening. Thanks for your time.

On Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 11:36 AM Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov> wrote:

> Laura,
>
> Thank you so much for the email. I think you are misunderstood with what has been relayed or what is being said in public.
>
> No one is saying that Boro Pride can't occur. No one is saying that anyone has an issue with the LBGQT community and their right to assemble. What the City is saying is that the "show" at the festival was not age appropriate or family friendly. The organizers and the city have met and it was relayed we cannot nor do we have the right to stop any festival, but we do have the right to monitor what happens on City Property and make sure they are in the guidelines set worth by the City of Murfreesboro.
>
> The TEP has decided to submit an application with no adjustments or stipulations to monitor the show, make it age appropriate or any other assurances. If that is the stance of the TEP, clearly they don't want to compromise and another group will have to take up the festival with those assurances.
>
> The videos that were sent are not appropriate for children and that type of sexual content, IMO, should not and will not be permitted on City Property. IF the group wants to have that

type of show, there are other options. Including, having it on private property.

The narrative that the City is trying to stop the festival is just false. The Boro Pride festival has taken place in the City for many years and hasn't been a problem. This past year was a different situation. I would argue that is this type of "show" is worth throwing out a whole festival….that is on the organizers, not the City and it's relationship with the community.

I hope that makes sense.

Respectfully,

Shane McFarland

Mayor City of Murfreesboro

From: Laura Rasmussen <laura.rasmussen1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 10:43:11 AM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Give BORO pride a Chance

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Mr. Mayor,

I respectfully request you respond to the LGBTQI+ community and our thoughts on the recent ban of BORO Pride.

I moved to Murfreesboro only a few years ago specifically in hopes I could live in a Southern town that would accept my rights and who I am. BORO Pride does not have to be a closed book , but rather, a conversation between the city and its people.

We have every right to express ourselves right next to any other members of the community. Unless, of course, you believe us not to be worthy enough to be listened to.

Like it or not, we live in this town, we teach and attend at the schools, we raise children and work the jobs that keep Murfreesboro going. What makes us any different than any other community then?

I do agree, any public events should be monitored for decency and respect. However, this ban closes the doors and attempts to erase our presence.

Really it speaks more to who you all are as a council if you cannot have a two way conversation about a public event. Do not cower to that level as we do not hesitate to support all people in our community and others.

Give BORO pride a chance.