From: Shane McFarland
To: Brad Owens
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Boro Pride cancellation
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 6:17:17 PM

Brad:

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your comments.

I have been involved in elected office for almost 20 years. I have tried my absolute best to represent everyone regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual preference, or any other factors. The City's responsibility is to deliver services to our residents and I have tried to do my level best to stay out of all the political chaos that surrounds our world and make sure that every person in Murfreesboro feels welcome, respected and represented.

I wanted to give you that context in regards to BoroPride. I was on record responding to constituents who didn't want the festival to occur that it was not appropriate to deny use of our Parks and Recreation facilities if a group meets the requirements as set forth by the City. It is not the City of Murfreesboro's obligation to determine who can and can't use those facilities based upon whether we agree with their mission, political stance, views or other thoughts. I emailed and told several people that BoroPride had a right to use those spaces as long as they upheld the rules just like everyone else.

Here's where I have an issue. I was sent the videos of the "drag" show at the end of the festival. The videos I saw were not representative of what the event application portrayed or what was billed as a "family friendly" event. This has nothing to do with whether I agree or disagree with the festival, but can we not all agree that having a "show" like this is not appropriate for a Parks and Recreation venue where children are present? For example, we wouldn't allow a college fraternity to have a bikini contest at a family park. The intended use of a parks and recreation venue is not for someone to be performing "mock" sexual acts on stage with children present. I think that is just common sense and something if you asked the majority of the community, they would agree.

I am going to continue to represent ALL residents in Murfreesboro….not just the ones I agree with. I do think we all can make these decisions together and use common sense about what is appropriate and reasonable for use of our parks and recreation facilities.

I believe we can all work together and find ways to make sure everyone can be accommodated.

Thank you!
Shane McFarland
Mayor City of Murfreesboro

From: Brad Owens <bradowensmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:20:06 PM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Boro Pride cancellation

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

Hello,
I'm emailing to join the rest of my community in expressing frustration over the cancellation of Boro Pride Fest for being "explicitly sexual."

Friends of mine have played music at the festival for years, and it's a great way for the LGBTQ community of Murfreesboro and the greater Nashville area to connect and celebrate.

There is nothing explicitly sexual about this festival. Queer people are not explicitly sexual, any more than straight cis people are. This decision will only hurt young LGBTQ people who now have one less place to feel safe and able to be themselves. Queer adults are not a danger to children, despite the rhetoric being spread about us. We just want queer kids to be safe and be able to be themselves. I hope whoever made this decision will reconsider.

Thank you for reading,

-Bradley Owens