From: Shane McFarland
To: Bo Robertson
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 9:13:07 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Bo:

I think we are saying the same thing. We can't legislate being a crappy parent. If that were the case, I would have failed multiple times.

What I am saying is that if you fill out a request for being family friendly event in a community park, the event needs to be family friendly. I hope we can agree that someone dressed in drag, spreading their legs, rubbing their crotch, humping up and down on stage is not considered family friendly. Several of our parks and recreation venues are on school sites. We wouldn't allow that for any group.

Again, I think this is just common sense. It seems that is lacking these days no matter what your political affiliation.

You didn't come off angry at all. I appreciate the passion on both sides, and I try to be fair.

Thank you!
Shane McFarland
Mayor City of Murfreesboro

From: Bo Robertson <bo.robertson@fourthcapital.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:41 AM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride

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Shane, upon rereading your response below, I do want to say, I appreciate your trying to keep this fair for everyone.
I am just worried that narratives out in the country about drag queen reading hours and things like that appear to be on the rise intentionally to smear the entire community.
Thanks for your consideration and hope I didn't come off too angry.
It is just very frustrating and our community is feeling attacked yet again.
Thanks

Bo Robertson
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From: Bo Robertson <bo.robertson@fourthcapital.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:29 AM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride

Shane, I appreciate the quick response.
I believe it is up to parents to decide what is appropriate for their children to see.
I believe it is not appropriate to close Pride for those that wish to participate.
The state doesn't get to parent our children.
I think it is government overreach and leads to further marginalized communities.
I would ask you to consider where more harm occurs. Please keep your personal view of what is appropriate at a large festival to yourself and rather let parents decide how to parent and guard the children they brought there.
They know best about how to manage that situation.
Thank you

From: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:02:03 AM
To: Bo Robertson <bo.robertson@fourthcapital.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride

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Bo:

Thank you for the email. I want to make sure you know. I am supportive of Boropride assembling, but I am not supportive of any group that has a "show" with sexual content that children are present. It seems common sense that you could make the one portion of the event age appropriate or modify what types of content will be there if it is billed as "family friendly".

Here is my response I have been sending:

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.

Thanks,

Shane

From: Bo Robertson <bo.robertson@fourthcapital.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:13 AM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride

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Mayor McFarland,
I very much wish to express my frustration that some are calling for the end of Murfreesboro Pride. It is disappointing that some members of our community are going to be disenfranchised and treated as second class citizens.

Many families are made up of gay parents and family members, and this event should be allowed for all to join and be who they are.

Please help us be a voice of reason and stand up for those who are often demonized unfairly.

Thank you,
Bo Robertson

Sent from Mail for Windows

Bo Robertson

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