From: Shane McFarland
To: Nashville LGBT Chamber
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- Boro Pride - Letter from Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Date: Friday, November 11, 2022 2:06:00 PM

Brian:

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.

Sincerely,

Shane McFarland

From: Nashville LGBT Chamber <info@nashvillelgbtchamber.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:58 PM
To: Craig Tindall <CTindall@murfreesborotn.gov>

Cc: Gary Whitaker <gwhitaker@murfreesborotn.gov>; Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>; Jami Averwater <javerwater@murfreesborotn.gov>; Austin Maxwell <amaxwell@murfreesborotn.gov>; Shawn Wright <swright@murfreesborotn.gov>; Bill Shacklett <bshacklett@murfreesborotn.gov>; Madelyn Scales-Harris <mscalesharris@murfreesborotn.gov>; Kirt Wade <kwade@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Boro Pride - Letter from Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce

> You don't often get email from info@nashvillelgbtchamber.org. Learn why this is important

Dear Mr. Tindall,

On behalf of our members and Board of Directors, we are asking you to: (1) reverse your decision to deny special events permits to the Tennessee Equality Project and (2) work with Boro Pride, TEP and other organizations to continue hosting Pride Festivals in Murfreesboro. The Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce represents over 400 corporations, small businesses, and individual LGBTQ+ and allied professionals throughout Middle Tennessee, including many who live and work in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

Murfreesboro is a rapidly growing city and is home to many people who identify as LGBTQ+, including children. LGBTQ+ professionals, their families and working parents of children who identify as LGBTQ+, want to live and work in communities that are supportive and embrace them. Boro Pride is important to show that all people are welcome in Murfreesboro. Pride Festivals help businesses and corporations attract and retain talent, show their customers they are welcoming to them and help to generate business for the entire community.

It is estimated that over 7,000 guests attended Boro Pride this year. When Pride Festivals are embraced by local governments, they do more than provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ citizens, they provide a boost to local economies. Just this month, Palm Springs, a small city of under 45,000 residents, hosted a Pride Festival that had an estimated 125,000 attendees and saw an economic impact of $25,000,000 in their community. Many municipalities around the country underwrite and invest in Pride Festivals because of the economic impact. Hotels fill up, restaurants sales go up, stores see an increase in traffic and local entrepreneurs participate in a festival that helps build their business. All those activities also generate tax revenue.

In addition to generating revenue for the local community, Pride Festivals are an opportunity to engage and educate everyone on the LGBTQ+ community not only with parties, but parades and workshops that honor the LGBTQ+ pioneers who fought for equality through art, culture, civic action, and community service. We ask that you refrain from denying this opportunity for the Murfreesboro community.

Sincerely,

The Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Brian Rosman | him/him
Vice President, Board of Directors
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