From: Shane McFarland
To: Chris Hanson
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Boro pride
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 6:17:01 PM

Chris:

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 regard 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: Chris Hanson <chrishanson2112@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:30:22 PM
To: Austin Maxwell <amaxwell@murfreesborotn.gov>; Bill Shacklett <bshacklett@murfreesborotn.gov>; Craig Tindall <CTindall@murfreesborotn.gov>; Jami Averwater <javerwater@murfreesborotn.gov>; Madelyn Scales-Harris <mscalesharris@murfreesborotn.gov>; Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>; Shawn Wright <swright@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Boro pride

> Some people who received this message don't often get email from chrishanson2112@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Please reconsider banning Boro pride due to "conduct and speech of an inherently sexual nature". Why is it a problem for gay people to have a day to celebrate themselves in a safe environment while straight people do this everyday with no one having an issue with it. I am sickened that you would go after this group of people just trying to live their lives and be themselves. They aren't hurting anyone or doing anything illegal. I see worse behavior from people out at bars on the weekends, heck even worse behavior at the freaking grocery stores! There are so many of the LGBTQIA+ that are being bullied and harassed. So many that take their own lives because they do not feel like they are accepted in society. Young people are struggling to come to terms with how they are feeling and don't feel safe to come out due to people like you that are trying to make them feel shame for just being themselves. The government shouldn't be able to say whether or not people of a certain sexual orientation can gather and celebrate themselves if they aren't doing anything illegal. We are taking many steps backwards if we allow this to happen. I am sure you have a gay person in your family or as a friend. Would you be willing to tell them they aren't allowed gather with others like them as well as others that support them because you think it is wrong? Please reconsider this ban and let people express themselves in this safe space.--
"My iPhone thinks... I'm more metal than you."