From: Shane McFarland
To: Julie Anne Stamps
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- Civil Rights Concerns
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:58:00 AM

Julie,

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: Julie Anne Stamps <jastamps0209@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:49 AM

To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Civil Rights Concerns

> You don't often get email from jastamps0209@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Mr McFarland,

I am writing to you in response to the letter that was sent to the organizers of Boro Pride. I'm extremely concerned because this looks like clear discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. We as a community have been fighting for our civil rights for years and it is heartbreaking to know that in my own city, I don't feel accepted, wanted, and safe. For the past few years, Murfreesboro City seemed to be taking great strides in acceptance and equality, but I have clearly been mistaken. Boro Pride is a widely sponsored and supported event, the city has made a massive mistake in banning this festival. While your personal opinions may conflict with the existence of our community and therefore Boro Pride, we have a civil right to gather with our community. This is an event that my partner and I take our children to where they can experience other family dynamics like ours. Taking away Pride is taking away my family's right to celebrate who we are.

The letter expresses concerns about exposing children to "innapropriate sexual content" yet our kids are exposed to heterosexual content all the time... in fact you still allow Hooters in Murfreesboro. That's allowed because we as parents have the **right** to choose where we take our children and what we will allow them to be exposed to. Parents also have the **right** to choose whether they take their children to a drag show or to Pride. This is clearly blatent discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community and it is abolutely unacceptable.

We as a community have been fighting for our rights as long as we have existed, that is not ending anytime soon. You have upset an incredible community of people. Take your personal feelings out of this and give back our civil right to exist and to gather.

Julie Anne Stamps