From: Oscar Hanson
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Boro Pride
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:18:20 PM

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Hello Mayor Shane McFarland, I heard about the decision that was made recently to ban the Boro Pride event indefinitely for "conduct and speech of an inherently sexual nature," despite no evidence being shown.

I am appalled at this gross misuse of power to target an already marginalized and underrepresented group such as the LGBTQ+ community. Pride events are absolutely essential to our community to allow people to express themselves and their identity in a safe, controlled environment.

As a genderqueer, pansexual person, I feel my 1st amendment rights granted to me by The Constitution are being infringed upon. No matter if you agree or disagree with a group's message, I believe any group, as long as they comply with both the city and the 1st amendment, should be granted access to congregate. You guys approved a "White Lives Matter" group's permit to freely express themselves back on October 28th, 2017, so why not the LGBTQ+ community?

According to the Trevor Project, 45% of LGBTQ+ people have contemplated committing suicide (The Trevor Project on Instagram: "Our 2022 National Survey shines a light on the harms of discrimination and anti-trans bills while emphasizing the benefits of affirming…"). Now why do you think that is?

The existence of gay, bisexual, lesbian, and other LGBTQ peoples is not inherently sexual and it is not fair for any government to limit our right to assembly and speech. I hope you all will reconsider the choices you made as they have the potential to severely and negatively impact these vulnerable populations. Those in positions of political power should not let their religious morality come into play when making judgments that affect their community. You can choose to be religious, being LGBTQ+ is not.

As being from Murfreesboro my whole life, I am appalled that my city is not making me feel like I belong.

Thank you for reading. I hope you take my words into consideration.