From: Shane McFarland
To: Gabrielle Dillard
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 8:54:00 AM

Gabrielle,

Thank you for the email and 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.

Thanks again for your email.

Sincerely,

Shane McFarland

From: Gabrielle Dillard <gabrielledillard2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 10:32 PM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Murfreesboro Pride

> You don't often get email from gabrielledillard2000@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Mr. McFarland,

It has come to my attention that Murfreesboro Pride has been banned indefinitely for "conduct and speech of an inherently sexual nature".

I can assure you that events such as Pride, more specifically Murfreesboro Pride, are no such thing.

As an open and proud woman who identifies as queer, events like these are important to the LGBTQA+ community because it's where people can be truly accepted and celebrated. Queer people like me want to live in a world where we are safe.

Gender and sexual orientation is a spectrum and not a sin or sexually deviant. But when our city put polices into place that say otherwise, it endangers our community. It endangers real-life, average people and their families especially trans people.

The rise of homophobia and transphopbia is spreading all over our country, including in southern states and we are terrified.

As our mayor, you are the face of our city, you are our representative. And do you really want your political legacy to be tainted with such blatant bigotry? Murfreesboro should be a city for everyone.

Please use your influence to stop this ban and other bans that attack the LGBTQA+ community. All I ask of you is to look into the history of LGBTQA+ community, especially in the US. Please take the time to get to know us. We are not monsters, we are not predators. We are your friends, your neighbors, we are the mailman, the school teacher, the teen practicing for band at her high school. Just ordinary people who happen not to be straight or cisgender. And there is nothing wrong or unusual about that. There have always been queer people and there always will be.

We are a part of Murfreesboro. We are people just like you and should be treated with dignity and respect.

I trust that you will make the right decision and tonight you are in my prayers.

May God keep you always,

Gabrielle Dillard