From: Bethany Pierce
To: Craig Tindall
Subject: [EXTERNAL]-
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 1:09:55 PM

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Dear Mr. Tindall -

My name is Bethany Lawson. My husband and I bought a home in beautiful Murfreesboro in 2021 and have loved living here thus far.

However, this morning I was disturbed to read a news article that stated you have denied the Tennessee Equality Project's permit for Pride Fest in 2023, and any other permits they may apply for in the future. This is concerning as BoroPride is instrumental in bringing the LGBTQ community and their allies together to celebrate equality. My husband and I attended the celebration this past September and enjoyed seeing people from all walks of life partake in the music, food, and vendors.

It is my understanding that you described the festivities as explicit, inappropriate for children, and prurient in nature. It is said you reviewed video footage and declared there was "dancing of a sexual nature" while children were present, and used this as justification to deny the permits. Is this truly an appropriate standard by which to judge an entire event? Are we in the movie Footloose? It's as if we have been transported back to 1957 and Elvis being censored on the Ed Sullivan show.

Freedom of expression is what makes America great. It is the force that drives discourse and progress. While you may not approve of a few hip-swiveling dance moves, the dance moves of fully clothed people can hardly be deemed explicit. In fact, there were plenty of police officers present at the event. Were children being subjected to nudity or anything lewd, I am sure they would have stepped in and arrested the offenders.

It goes without saying that your personal standards are irrelevant to the matter; it is up to parents to determine what is and is not appropriate for their children within the bounds of the law. And no laws regarding lewdness were broken by the Tennessee Equality Project at BoroPride 2021. Mr. Tindall, I highly encourage you to reevaluate your position, as your personal opinions ought not to infringe upon the freedoms of Murfreesboro residents.

Thank you,

Bethany L. Lawson