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Subject: [EXTERNAL]- conversation with Craig Tindall
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So I just talked to Craig Tindall, the city manager of Murfreesboro who said he'll deny a permit for Boro Pride. It was an infuriating-yet-enlightening conversation.

When I asked his reasoning to ban Boro Pride, he said "the videos" show sexual content indoctrinating young children. When I said I hadn't seen the videos, he said "they're all over" YouTube and Twitter. I don't use Twitter any more and I only use YouTube to watch old sports events from my youth.

BTW, after the phone call, I tried to find Boro Pride on YT and couldn't find anything objectionable. Not saying there's not some objectionable material on there, but it strikes me as really odd that a government official with the power to abridge a right to gather would rely on social media. To his point, he said the festival's organizers didn't deny any of the claims, but I'm unsure whether that's accurate, given some of Tindall's other claims he made during our convo.

Tindall is a lawyer acting as a civil servant, but you'd never know it from our conversation. He constantly spouted words like "indoctrination" and "sexual content aimed at young children," but he couldn't tell me what acts constituted "indoctrination" and how, exactly, these children were exposed to sexual content. The letter describing his reasoning for denying future permits also dealt in generalities. In fact, the original letter Tindall wrote to deny future Boro Pride events shows extreme prejudice, especially when he wrote "it is my belief that the conduct was specifically presented to denegrate and diminish those standards." There is, of course, no evidence to support this claim. That's an opinion he has, but it has no place in an official decree.

The most infuriating part came when I told him actions only like his serve to perpetuate hate, and his response basically said that the LGBT community deserves the hate because of the "drag shows." I'll take victim-blaming for $1,000, Alex.

In fact, Tindall said "this kind of stuff is happening all over the country. You can see it in the media." Of course, Tindall is famous for posting an anti-media screed on the city's website during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This makes me so sad and angry. I love Murfreesboro, but it is hostile toward marginalized people, be they LBGT, people of color (remember when a judge spent years throwing Black children in jail?) and people who experience disability (or as Sen. Shane Reeves calls us, "retards.") Then again, what would you expect from a community which lost its mind over a mosque, and what would you expect from a city manager who went rogue during the pandemic?

Given other things he said, I have no doubt Tindall sees himself as an officer in a culture war. That's not what city managers are paid to do.

The bottom line is this: The LGBT community is having its constitutional rights abridged by a prejudiced public servant, and his actions are predicated on ::: checks notes ::: what he's seen on social media. Tindall also said he received "many complaints" about the event, but The DNJ reported those complaints came from five people, four of whom had filed complaints before the event. The last time I checked, five minus four is one. So one complaint, period.

Tindall's a liar, a hypocrite and is burdened by his prejudices. It's time for him to go.