From: Alexandra Knox
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Banning Boro pride
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 1:19:32 PM

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Hello, my name is Alexandra Knox. I've been a murfreesboro TN resident for 28 years (my entire life).

I heard about the decision that was made recently to ban the murfreesboro pride event indefinitely for "conduct and speech of an inherently sexual nature".

As someone who is a part of the LGBTQ+ community, this decision feels like an attempt to make me feel ashamed of who I am. To make me feel as if who I chose to love is perverse or inappropriate. I deserve to feel included, loved, and seen by my community. Whether you personally believe in the way I live my life or not, it's not fair for you to decide who gets to be included or respected.

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.

The existence of gay, bi, lesbian, trans, and other LGBTQ peoples is not inherently sexual and it is not fair for any government to limit our right to assembly. I hope you 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.