From: Shane McFarland
To: Timothy Strobl
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]- I support Boro Pride
Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 2:43:00 PM

Tim,

Great to hear from you. I hope all is well.
No one is saying that Boro Pride can't occur. No one is saying that anyone has an issue with the LBGQT community and their right to assemble. I feel confident every member of our Council agrees that we don't' have the right to limit anyone's right to assemble. What the City is saying is that the "show" at the festival was not age appropriate or family friendly as applied or advertised.
The City Council asked our team and the organizers to meet to find a compromise and it was relayed to the Tennessee Equality Project that we cannot nor do we have the right to stop any festival, but we do have the right to monitor what happens on City Property and make sure they are abiding by the guidelines set forth by the City of Murfreesboro. It was expressed that the City has no issue with the Boro Pride festival, but we could not allow the "show" to occur as it happened this year. There would have to be assurances made that this would not occur.
The TEP decided to submit an application with no adjustments or stipulations to monitor the show, make it age appropriate or any other assurances. They used the same application as last year. (BTW….they applied for the September event in July of this year and have decided to apply in November this year for the event in September of 2023) If this is the stance of the TEP, clearly they don't want to compromise. The letter from the City Manager DOES NOT say Boro Pride can't occur, but it does say that based upon what the TEP did with their last application, they are not permitted to be the applicant. The videos that were sent are not appropriate for children and that type of sexual content, IMO, should not and will not be permitted on City Property. IF the group wants to have that type of show, there are other options, including, having it on private property.
The narrative that the City is trying to stop the festival is just false. The Boro Pride festival has taken place in the City for many years and hasn't been a problem. This past year was a different situation. I would argue that if this type of "show" is worth throwing out a whole festival….it is on the organizers, not the City.
Tim, I hope you know, I try and do my best to represent everyone. These type of shows are not right. The continued sexualization of our most vulnerable population, children, can't continue to happen. The shows that are occurring all over our county are not about LBGQT rights, they are pushing a boundary that is not right with children. The funny thing is that every person I have emailed who is PRO Boro Pride agrees with that statement, including those speaking at our meeting last month. They agree the festival should not be defined by a drag show where someone is dressed in chaps, rubbing their genitals, humping up and down on stage and rubbing up and down on a child. To me, that is where we have to draw the line.
Please know, this is not about hate, oppression or disagreeing with someone's lifestyle. Those are not for me to judge, but it is my job to make sure that things that happen on City property related to children continues to be appropriate and safe. I am only one vote, but that is where I draw the line.
I appreciate you emailing me more than you know.

Respectfully,

Shane McFarland
Mayor City of Murfreesboro

From: Timothy Strobl <timothy.strobl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- I support Boro Pride

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

Shane,

Hope you are well and preparing for a happy holiday season.

I was asked by the Nashville LGBT Chamber to reach out to you to express my support for the Boro Pride event. There is more anti-LGBTQ speech and action today that I don't think you would tolerate. I encourage you to show the leadership that I saw you exhibit as a student leader at MTSU. There is no harm in the LGBTQ community expressing themselves in a Pride event as there is no room for hate or the suppression of self confidence in one's chosen lifestyle.

All the best to you and Shawn!

Tim