From: mindy gannon
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]- Who are you representing
Date: Saturday, December 17, 2022 1:54:38 PM

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

Well thank goodness that clip was from Facebook but unfortunately it was used on a more public platform…I do understand that the media rarely asks for permission when putting news out there…so my apologies for assuming that you picked to wear a hat while speaking to the media.

But I still strongly disagree with taking the permit to use public land away from the festival. I to don't believe that children should be exposed (or myself) to vulgarity. However I know that definition is used subjectively and again what I saw did not seem terrible or offensive.

Like I stated before I see way more twerking and popping performed from dance and cheer squads across Tennessee. I think the bigger issue is that it was DRAG which just offends certain people such as Craig Tindall and perhaps you as well. My concern is that Murfreesboro seems to be taking the position that they can impose a very narrow view on what is considered morally appropriate for a family. When the government starts to decide what is morally ok for others or what family values should look like it is a slippery slope.

Nashville has Live on the Green which has many different bands. The government does not step in and tell these bands how to play or preform their music. The music that plays is not always the edited version of their songs but it is still an open family event. Because apparently Nashville understands that it is my job to regulate what my child is exposed to and we are all different in that respect.
Some parents (my sister) think sponge bob is the devil but are comfortable allowing their children to listen to stories in that have violence rape and murder because it's biblical…again not my place to regulate.

Murfreesboro response to a marginalized group that isn't asking for special treatment just fair treatment makes us look backwards. And I don't think taking creative control control/ demanding complete over site then saying ball is in your court is fair…like I asked before would the treatment be the same if the event was sponsored by NRA and people complained because they saw pictures of a childern holding a weapons (which for some parents is just as offensive as a grown man lip-singing to Donna Summers in a neon jumpsuit). Do we really want our government to decide? No it's not why the vast majority elected you. The focus should be on how to improve our city.

Yes I am a Murfreesboro resident and have lived here for over 20 years. Prior to this I lived in Nashville (and several other cities before that). I followed my parents here so my son could be closer to his grandparents. My mother was born and raised here but after my father passed she moved but I am still here. Why? Because I see so much potential.

With smart growth and infrastructure improvements we could create a city that is an amazing place to live in its own right (not because of it close proximity to Nashville). But again the focus needs to be improvement and not allowing your city manager reaction to a 15 second video put the focus else where. It's just disappointing and disheartening. I compromise could have been made.

And because you may still be reading we want improvement:
1. more sidewalks especially in older areas were people walk because they have to, not just for exercise 2. more beautification, so people will want to stay here. 3. more city services like a recycling center that stays open more than two hours a week…or recycling pick-up like Franklin. That would be less in Mount Trashmoro. We need something more than sports fields, battlefields, and improvements on the outer part of the city like the Avenue.

I live on West Clark. We were in 2016 that we would get a sidewalk. This was because we have children who have to walk to school and that year 3 people were hit by cars while walking. We still have no sidewalk; I watch people walk down the street and it is terrifying. Now instead of a walkable safe road, the 30 year plan is to buy some houses and tear them down and widen the road while building another bridge…Ridiculous…we need more housing not less and this is the most costly option!!! This is not being a good steward of our money or our history. These homes were built in the 20's 30's and 40's they are small but historic and this could be a charming safe street if we had a sidewalk.

We expanded medical and memorial with bridges and more lanes to contend with traffic. Building more lanes is not the solution also it's ugly. If we want to save money let's lower the speed limit to 25 in the residential areas. On W. Clark put in one more stop sign, and then patrol/ enforce in those areas. This would encourage more people to walk and others to use the larger roads that were built rather than looking for the short cuts and driving like its Indy 500 around the S-curve. What makes us charming is our square and those older communities. We need to give them more attention rather then growth for growths sake.

I think looking at other cities would be helpful. Huntsville and Savannah have amazing city planning. They conserve history while modernizing. Both places raised their taxes but have provided more services. They have recycling, sidewalks/ bike lanes. They even have a bulk pick trash day once a month so they don't have couches in the front yard for 6 months.

I realize this email got off tack of the original issue. Thank you again for your prompt response and if I can help with anything I listed above let me know.

Sincerely,
Ms. Gannon

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 17, 2022, at 10:00 AM, Shane McFarland
> <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov> wrote:
>
> Mindy:
>
> Your email gives a great example with what's wrong with public dialogue today.
> I appreciate the fashion advice, but that video was from my Facebook Live Chats

I have done for many years. They are very informal and not TV interviews. I would weather be about substance and not look. Nonetheless, here is my response.

I think you are misunderstood with what has been relayed or what is being said in public.

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. What the City is saying is that the "show" at the festival was not age appropriate or family friendly. The organizers and the city have met, and it was relayed 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 in the guidelines set worth by the City of Murfreesboro and for that matter the State of Tennessee.

The TEP has decided again to submit an application with no adjustments or stipulations to monitor the show, make it age appropriate or any other assurances after the city met stating what our concerns and issues were. If that is the stance of the TEP, clearly, they don't want to compromise, and another group will have to take up the festival with those assurances.

The videos that were sent are not appropriate for children and that type of sexual content 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….that is on the organizers.

I hope that makes sense. BTW...are you a Murfreesboro resident?

Thank you!
Shane McFarland
Mayor City of Murfreesboro

From: mindy gannon <minnazg@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Shane McFarland <smcfarland@murfreesborotn.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]- Who are you representing

[You don't often get email from minnazg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Dear Mayor McFarland,

First, when representing Murfreesboro on channel 4 could you please look more professional. Your choice of attire gave an air of amateurism and incompetence, something most in Tennessee already associate with this city.

Second, please remember that are you perpetuating the view (not just with your wardrobe choice), that Murfreesboro will cater a right wing Neo Nazi group while denying another group access to city property. You do understand that you are giving justification to the the argument that Murfreesboro is the ugly, uneducated, backwater cousin of Franklin?

Third I viewed the video and it was way more tame then the vast majority of halftime high school performances (which are family events) that occur on a weekly basis all across this state on government property. The 5 complaints (that happened prior to the event) are not the voice of the majority. I am embarrassed that I told my gay nieghbor to vote for you.

Last, you should be more motivated to take on the following issues (in order of importance): lack of sidewalks/walkability, entertainment options for both young and old, the speeding/ aggressive driving, the inability to balance a budget while raising our property taxes and giving residents less services….yes I have many thoughts on the city improvement.

Murfreesboro needs better. You represent us all, so please quit pandering to the minority/ old guard. Start representing the majority, who don't just think "LBGTQ (Queer) people have a right to live here" but should also be able to use public space. It's not like Boro Residents are required to go if they don't want to! We are making Murfreesboro a commuter city, where people may live here but most go elsewhere to enjoy themselves. This is not good for Murfreesboro or our economy.

I will leave you with this question: If the NRA had a gathering at Cannonsburgh where children were allowed to handle weapons would you be as offended or outraged by the lack of good parenting as you were in regards to the drag show?

I look forward to a response or seeing you at the next Pride Festival,

Ms. Gannon