From: Bill Campbell
To: Shane McFarland
Subject: [EXTERNAL]- BoroPride
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Mayor McFarland,

I urge you to call upon the Murfreesboro City Council to drop all demands for the restrictions upon BoroPride events. It is a not only inappropriate for the city council to impose any restrictions but also a violation of the First Amendment and separation of church and state.

As an ordained United Methodist clergy, I am appalled that a narrow and self-righteous "Christian" interpretation of the morality of drag shows would even take your time and be on the agenda of the city council. Any a policy set by the City of Murfreesboro placing restrictions on BoroPride falls in the same category as the "Blue Laws" of another period.

The objection by Christian groups to drag shows demonstrates a complete lack of knowledge about history. Drag began in 16th century to Shakespearean theater due to the objections by the church to women acting on stage. The Church insisted that only men could appear on stage. Therefore, female roles were given to men who dressed as women.

Famous male actors over the years have appeared dressed as women, for example: Charlie Chaplin, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Red Skelton, Jack Lemmon, Dustin Hoffman, Roger Moore, Peter Sellers, Robin Williams, and Michael J. Foxe to name just a few. In fact, Milton Berle, the King of the tightly censored early TV, was also TV's first Drag Queen. He appeared in May 1951 on TV's Texaco Theater in drag. Are we to conclude that generations of children have been harmed by seeing men appear as women?

If the leaders of the City of Murfreesboro are so concerned about the moral wellbeing of children, there are far more urgent issues. Perhaps, the council could increase funding for foster homes; adding more school counselors; quality affordable day care; mental health counselors for children experiencing trauma. These are true moral issues facing Murfreesboro that Christians, Jews, Muslims, and non-religious can all agree must be addressed!

Please stop washing the time, energy, and resources of the City Council on this deeply biased assault upon drag shows.

Sincerely,

Rev. William Campbell