

Roxanne Maher

From: Timothy Ryan
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 7:52 AM
To: Gary Paul
Cc: April Brunelle; Town Council Group; Fred Allyn, III; Roxanne Maher
Subject: Re: Pizza Party

Gary;

I would go further; this event, however altruistic the motive might be, simply cannot be “hosted” or “sponsored” by the community relations committee if there was never a vote on the matter. Simply “telling the committee to be prepared for future events” is not a basis for one person to unilaterally make a decision on what a committee of three does or does not support, host or sponsor.

I am deeply concerned by this and other recent lapses in procedural judgement that have been made by members of this council. We are, as council, supposed to be the steady hand that leads our town, and not flaunting established procedures for any special interest matter or agenda.

-Tim

Timothy Ryan

On May 29, 2024, at 5:18 PM, Gary Paul <gpaul@ledyardct.org> wrote:

Councilor Brunelle,

A few corrections, Black History Month was indeed discussed in our meetings and a consensus was reached among ALL committee members and that is all on record, however Black History Month contest was NOT hosted by the community relations committee but Councilor Rodriguez put in all the work and did it herself with input supplied by the committee as a committee. We agreed as a committee to allow the contest winners to have they're awards given and work recognized at a council meeting. In fact if you go back to the minuets you'll find i have echoed my thoughts on how all those events should be done by private entities with our role only being supportive and again all that is in the minuets and was agreed upon by the whole committee. Speaking for the entire committee is wrong when no consensus or meeting minutes exist on any event. Telling committee members to expect events in the future doesn't cover the ground or meet the bar. It MUST be on an agenda and discussed and made public. To imply we have some moral obligation is also ridiculous, that is not the governments role. Special interest groups have NO place in government period. I'm not arguing to not allowing an event or even a parade but simply that its not the committee or the councils job to it. The fact is that it is a lifestyle choice just like the fact that i CHOOSE to be a straight, married believer of the gospel man. Where is my event then? That is where you get into legal trouble, when denying my event because i happen to be straight and a christian. That

is what can open the town to lawsuits. I prefer to keep our government out of those events and support those groups personally if i so choose and if you feel morally obligated to host an event then by all means do so, personally. But there is a process for things in government and again i would challenge the legality of what is currently being done with even a meeting, vote or consensus on the issue. I again respectfully ask that the event either be canceled OR leave the committee name off of it and host it yourself.

Gary Paul

From: April Brunelle <ABru@ledyardct.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 4:26 PM

To: Gary Paul <gpaul@ledyardct.org>

Cc: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

Subject: Re: Pizza Party

Hello Councilor Paul,

Thank you writing to me and expressing your concerns. I appreciate the time you took to do so. I am however a little confused at why you thought this event had to be voted on when all the previous ones were not. Including, both Black History Events & the Women's History Event. Only now is this concern brought up with the heavy weighted overtones of it being illegal. On the contrary I would like to submit that cancelling or refusing to host such an event would be putting our town into legal muddy waters. Cities (and towns) are required to grant access to the same city resources to LGBTQ+ that are made available to other groups hosting similar public events.

And since a citizen did come and speak to us at our April Meeting and specifically ask for a pride event it is in our moral and public obligation to our town to see it done. It's a constitutional right to equal protection and thus an equal constitutional right to hold a Pride Event. In 2008 a Mayer Larry Langford in Alabama tried to cancel a pride parade based on his religious beliefs and had to settle out of court paying \$40,000 and had to establish nondiscriminatory regulations.

In the January 17th Community Relations Committee it is clear in the minutes I told the committee to be prepared for future events throughout the year for different groups in our community. This is a very important group in our community. And just for the record it is not a lifestyle choice. A straight man cannot simply turn off his attraction toward females and call it a day. It doesn't work that way.

As for the money there is no reason to jump to conclusions or panic. I am personally paying for the balloons, DJ and possible face painting. Another is paying for the Pizza and Soda. The permit for the use of the town area has already been accepted and on record.

I hope to see everyone attend and to help continue to support our Community.

Sincerely,

April Brunelle

From: Gary Paul <gpaul@ledyardct.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 12:15 PM

To: April Brunelle <ABru@ledyardct.org>

Cc: Town Council Group <TownCouncil@ledyardct.org>; Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>

Subject: Pizza Party

Good morning Councilor Brunelle,

I am writing you as you are the chair of the Community Relations Committee. Scrolling through Facebook last night i was quite surprised to see there is a Pride month Pizza Party event happening in June. While a pride pizza party in itself doesn't bother me, the fact that its hosted by the Community Relations Committee does. I don't ever remember discussing this or voting on such an action in the committee which is wrong and could be defined as illegal. This is not good procedural government. Not only was this not discussed with the community relations committee with no meeting minutes, but no-one knows who is paying for all this, and has the finance committee looked at this?? is it going to be put to the full council? If this had been discussed i would have made the argument that government has NO business in social policy or lifestyle choice. Our job is to govern and not promote any type of special interest groups. How would the council or residents feel if i wanted the community relations committee to host a straight traditional marriage group? Or a born again bible group? I would think people would have a problem with that. How someone chooses to live or identify themselves is none of the governments business and people who do believe in biblical morals and traditional values would have the same right to argue we do something for them. I have many LGBT friends and family who i love very dearly who would support my argument. But regardless of my argument, the fact that this was done behind the back of the rest of the committee and the council doesn't only make it ethically wrong but possibly illegal as well and ask that the event be canceled and the promotion be taken down off of social media or better yet keep the event but take off the community relations committees name as host and let someone personally take the lead and if councilors would like to go on there own merit then great, but this is most certainly not a council backed event. Lets please stick to procedure and our roles in government.

Sincerely, Gary Paul