

June 4, 2024

To: Community Relations Committee For Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Town of Ledyard

Re: Special Regular Meeting June 5, 2024, Section VII. New Business

Dear Committee Members,

As expressed in my previous letter and email correspondence, I am highly appreciative of the efforts to make our marginalized populations more visible and celebrated in our community. I am, unfortunately, highly concerned about the lack of transparency from Councilors Ryan and Paul. Counselor Ryan repeatedly stated that he is concerned about a procedural technicality. However, when asked about this multiple times in the e-mail thread, he did not address the question of HOW the procedure was violated.

Per the Mission Statement of the Community Relations committee, signed by Counselor Paul and adopted September 21, 2022: "The Community Relations Committee is tasked with being both an advocate and a resource for the community by listening, communicating, and engaging with the community, educating ourselves, standing up to discrimination and racism in all forms. We do this by encouraging dialogue, promoting unity and understanding, and learning from one another as we continue to build a strong community together, making sure no-one is left behind." I do not see how a consensus agreement between the members of the committee to have a pride day celebration violates this, and when asked specifically about which procedures were violated, I received no response or clarification. I only received a repeated statement that procedures were violated without any additional information.

This is certainly concerning, but I am even more concerned about the lack of respect for our LGBTQIA+ community, as none of my concerns documented in the letter were addressed by either counselor. Our community needs to show that we honor, respect, and value all our neighbors. We need to make our community a safe place for minorities and LGBTQIA+ community members to call home. I do not feel that sugar-coating bigotry in the disguise of procedural violations is a good look for our Town Council, and I truly would like this to be addressed on the record by the counselors in question. Should I be granted the opportunity to speak at any meeting, I will be reading my statements.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Parad

Ledyard Resident