

Mayor Grau and City Council Members,

We represent ( 18 ) churches and chaplaincies and further represent ( 311 ) years of ministry serving in the Geauga County community. As pastors and leaders, we want to express our appreciation and support for you as our elected officials. Also, we want to voice our serious concerns regarding the planned "Gauga Pride Event" event scheduled on Saturday, June 18, in Chardon Square. Far from evoking any sense of civic pride, this event and the one planned in Burton cause us a sense of dismay.

We have two primary concerns:

1) We do not believe that this event is healthy for families in the community. Public events on the square impact a wide range of demographics that constitute the public, including children, and this impact must be taken into consideration. Unlike other public events, such as the Maple Festival, the content of the Gauga Pride event is 'adult' in nature. Case in point, the event includes a drag show. Yet at the same time, the event is advertising activities to attract children, such as face painting. The families we represent do not see this kind of enticement as being in their best interests. Our children and grandchildren should not be in danger of being exposed to lewd behavior and sexuality in a setting as public as the town square. Nor should children be the target for recruitment. Perhaps city ordinances exist against public indecency, distribution of sexual materials, etc.

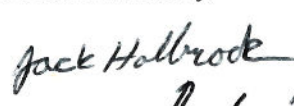
2) Furthermore, organizations and special interest groups from outside the community sponsor the event. Most of the participants are being brought in from outside the county. Clearly, an agenda is being pushed, and this agenda is contrary to the attitudes of the majority of Gauga's residents. For example, one of the key speakers is a self-proclaimed "rabble rouser." Their objective is not to promote peace in our community but to be incendiary and foment trouble. Our desire is to support families and concerned citizens who actually call Gauga County home and safeguard the moral integrity of this community. We also wish to clearly state that the church in Chesterland sponsoring this event does not represent Christ or the Christian community in Gauga County. This church openly endorses sexually immoral conduct and causes in direct violation of God's Word.

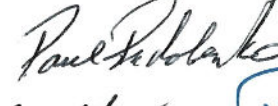
In conclusion, this planned event sets a bad precedent for future events. This event is morally detrimental and harmful to our community. One must wonder where the line will be drawn if the city hosts this event. If people from outside the community are allowed to host drag shows in public, what is next? What is the city's ethical policy for public events hosted on the square?

Having stated our concerns, we understand that legally, your hands "might be tied," and you can't stop them from gathering. We want you to know that we fully support our law enforcement officers and their efforts to maintain the peace and uphold the law. You are in our prayers.

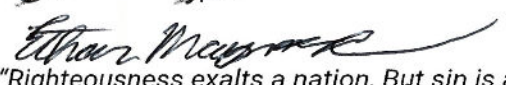
Thank you for taking the time to read this. Sincerely,









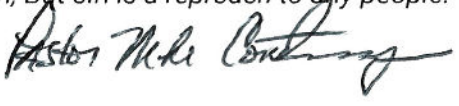






"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34





Douglas Browning - Fowler's Mill Christian

Wayne L. Sanders - CHARDON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

Raynel J. Jains - Living Water Church, Chardon

Gregory L. DiMeolo - CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Kyle Boone - Hambden Congregational Church

Kyle Boone - NEW MERCIES COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ken A. Pierpont - Chardon Baptist Church

Dean Cole - Christ Community Church