



THE LAKE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

REPRESENTATIVE KEITH TRUENOW
REPRESENTATIVE STAN MCCLAIN
REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR YARKOSKY

SENATOR DENNIS BAXLEY, CHAIR



August 21, 2023

City of Mount Dora
510 N Baker Street
Mount Dora, FL 32757

It has come to our attention that action was taken by the Mount Dora City Council last week to create a “Safe Place” program specific to the LGBTQ+ community. Let us be clear by saying, this is extremely concerning to the folks in Lake County on many levels! Could you please tell us what specifically has transpired in the City of Mount Dora to lead to such action being needed by your council? Do we have specific reports and/or incidents happening on a regular basis? We are confident that the answer is no! In fact, we had to go back over 12 years to find reports in your area regarding any such bigotry, prejudice, or outright hate crimes being reported.

We believe that you are putting the City of Mount Dora in the crosshairs of potentially detrimental, and absolutely unnecessary, economic harm. In light of what we have seen around this country in regards to the pushback and unprecedented financial harm to long standing American made companies such as Anheuser-Busch and Target Corporation, this local “Safe Place” program is negligent, irresponsible and divisive at best. You are picking winners and losers in your city with this program and alienating otherwise friendly businesses and residents from one another on the basis of their participation, or lack thereof, in this virtue signaling program. Furthermore, in regards to the outcome on public safety, we believe you are in fact creating a less safe environment in Mount Dora, contrary to the intentions you proclaim.

We will be addressing this matter tomorrow at the Lake County Delegation meeting beginning at 9:00 AM in Leesburg at the Venetian Center. We respectfully ask you to attend and explain your actions here and the thinking behind it. We apologize for sending this letter on the eve of the meeting but this whole matter has emerged fairly quickly. Our job as the leaders of this county is to “get it right” for ALL people in Lake County. That being said, please be assured that we are considering all legislative, legal and executive options available to us to quickly and permanently address this matter to ensure it never causes any financial harm to any business in this county. We simply won’t stand for any policy that leads to divisive and unsafe conditions for the residents of our great county. This absolutely goes against all the Constitutional, Biblical, Law and Order principles that this country was founded on and still continue to make this country great today, where deployed...

Thank you very much and may God Bless Lake County!

Respectfully,

The Lake County Legislative Delegation

Senator Dennis Baxley, Chairman
Representative Keith Truenow
Representative Taylor Yarkosky
Representative Stan McClain

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