

RYAN DOYLE

.....
Host of the Rush
Newstalk 1010
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May 29, 2017

To whom it may concern,

With the recent decision by Pride Toronto to ban uniformed police from participation in Pride 2017, I am writing this letter to encourage the efforts of Bryn Hendricks and others to bring together all our First Responders and Civil Servants in uniform at the First Responders Unity Festival, in a respectful and enjoyable way that doesn't conflict with Pride's demands, but allows for the thousands of members of the public who are excited to celebrate with First Responders and Civil Servants collectively this Pride.

In my capacity as a talk radio host and as a private citizen, I have offered any support I can, and I encourage us to work together to find a meaningful way to ensure all our First Responders and Civil Servants support each other this Pride.

This is important to me. I am passionate about this issue because I believe in inclusion and am opposed to dividing our communities. I have believed, as a straight male, that Pride has done wonders in healing wounds, unifying communities, and spreading tolerance over the years.

The recent decision by Pride Toronto and Toronto City Council, in my opinion, runs counter to the amazing work that has been done previously, which is why I believe the First Responders Unity Festival will help to fill a gap created by backward decisions that allow politics to trump unity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, and I look forward to working with you over the coming month.

Regards,

Ryan

Ryan Doyle
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SUE-ANN LEVY

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TORONTO SUN COLUMNIST
AUTHOR OF: UNDERDOG-Confessions
of a Right-Wing, Gay, Jewish Muckraker
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May 29, 2017

To whom it may concern:

In view of what I see as the disappointing decision by Pride Toronto to ban the participation of uniformed Toronto police -- and by extension all police forces in Ontario -- from the June 25 parade, I am pleased to learn of the efforts by Bryn Hendricks to create an alternate event that will honour all EMS and law enforcement personnel in the manner they deserve.

The First Responders Unity Festival sounds like an excellent opportunity to bring together all first responders and the myriad of law enforcement personnel -- both LGBTQ and straight -- who would not otherwise be able to celebrate Pride in the uniforms that are very much part of their identity.

This issue has been at the top of my radar since January when I attended the Pride AGM and saw it sabotaged by those wanting the police out of the parade. As a gay woman who only came out 10 years ago (on the front page of the Toronto Sun) I am deeply disturbed by the efforts of a select group of Pride officials -- those very people who have demanded inclusivity -- to exclude the police. I know that the Toronto police have expended much political capital building bridges with the gay community and this decision, one reinforced by City Council last week, is a slap in the face to the good work that has been done in the past 20 years.

I wish Mr. Hendricks the very best of luck with his planning and am happy to promote the event any way I can.

All the best,

Sue-Ann Levy
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McCormack, Mike

From: Henry Dyck
Sent: March 31, 2017 8:54 PM
To: McCormack, Mike
Subject: Letter of Concern from the LGBTQ-ISN

Dear President McCormack-

We the undersigned represent the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Internal Support Network Executive Committee for the Toronto Police Service.

It is our understanding that the City of Toronto will be considering continued funding in 2017 for Pride Toronto in the approximate amount of \$260,000.

At our request, we would like the Association to consider sharing with the mayor and city councillors that we, as city employees, would feel completely de-valued and unsupported by our employer should they fund this event at this time.

How can we possibly feel appreciated by our employer while they sponsor an event that its own employees have been disinvited from participating in as full, equal, and active participants in their role as city employees. We can think of no examples in Canada where either a public or private employer has been a lead sponsor for an event their employees were asked not to participate in.

We wish Pride Toronto all the best success in their events in 2017, and we look forward to a time when a relationship exists again that cultivates a more respectful police-community partnership in Pride.

However, when any city employee, regardless of their job function, is disinvited from an event hosted in the City of Toronto, we feel it is simply a conflict of interest, and unacceptable, that the City of Toronto remain a sponsor.

Thanks for your consideration,

Patty Retsinas, PC DPSU

Henry Dyck, SGT 51 Division

Helena Briand, A/Location Administrator, Court Services Mary Christian, Supervisor Court Services

Robert Chevalier, PC 51 Division Paul Regan, PC 52 Division Sam Selvaggio, Station Duty 52/AUX S/SGT 53 Division

DANIEL CHARRON

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Toronto Resident

Creative Director

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To whom it may concern,

After Pride decided to ban police in uniform to participate in Pride 2017, I've decided to get involved by supporting Bryn Hendricks and others in their effort in setting an event for First Responders at Pride. Of course, it will happen in a respectful way not contrary to Pride's demands. At the same time, it will allow thousands who want to celebrate with the First Responders collectively with Pride.

I wish to offer my support in any way needed and looking forward to work to make sure we ALL (including our First Responders) participate in Pride.

Hoping I can help and we ALL have a great event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves back down to meet the 'D'.

Daniel Charron



NEWS RELEASE

Ruling to disallow uniformed police and floats in Toronto Pride parade

Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 marks a dark day for LGBTQ Law Enforcement professionals in the province of Ontario, the provincial capital and Canada's largest city, Toronto. We are deeply disappointed and saddened by the Toronto Pride ruling to disallow uniformed police officers and floats in future Pride parades.

Serving with Pride will continue to move forward with the resolve to do what is right and to lead by example.

History has not been kind to those who identify as LGBTQ, and the police actions associated to those injustices are well known. But we have made tremendous strides, we have listened, we have spoken and we will continue to do so in the name of human rights.

Despite this setback, there are, and will continue to be, change agents within the law enforcement and criminal justice communities who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to effect change within their organizations.

Constable Danielle Bottineau, Toronto's LGBTQ Liaison Officer works tirelessly by meeting, calling and consulting with members of her LGBTQ community. Regardless of the time or day, one would be hard pressed to find her at a time when she doesn't have her finger on the pulse of the community. Cst. Bottineau and others along with Trans community member and TPS LGBTQ Civilian Co-Chair, Christine Newman lecture at Ryerson University and other community organizations to ensure that the message of police and community inclusivity is loud and clear.

Constable Brian Mitchell, a former Hamilton officer who has since moved to York Regional Police is the president of Serving with Pride. He was the first male officer to come out in the history of his service and worked with Hamilton towards their first Pride flag raising, installing safe spaces in each division, participation in Toronto Pride and working with Hamilton's LGBTQ youth community. Cst. Mitchell also lectures about LGBTQ terminology, rights, and stories at the Ontario Police College during their Basic Constable Training program, a program that every single sworn officer in the Province of Ontario must attend prior to working at a police service. Over the course of four years, over 1,000 sworn Police Constables have heard from Cst. Mitchell and his community panel guests.

Cst. Dena Peden is an ally, from Durham Regional Police Service who has spent countless hours working with her LGBTQ youth community, starting programs such as Colours – a program for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-20 in the Durham region. Again, another example of an officer who has put their heart and soul into closing those gaps within their profession when such an outreach is not mandated nor required by her employer.

RCMP's Communication Specialist Jean Turner spends countless hours working with community organizations, serves as a Director at SWP, and bravely came out in a [YouTube video](#) about abuses experienced at the hands of her family as a young woman. Jean proudly wears the RCMP crest while sharing these experiences, representing Canada's National Police Service to inspire others to come forward and share their experiences. Her story clearly shows that police are just like the rest of us, we all have trials and tribulations, failures and successes. Jean was the driving force behind the historic move to have all RCMP Detachments in Ontario fly the rainbow flag in their lobbies, she started an LGBTQ internal support network within her organization and sits on various diversity committees at the provincial and national levels.

Chief Laurie Hayman, who recently retired from her post as Chief of the Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service was the first openly gay female Chief in Canada. Chief Hayman was a visionary who foresaw a workplace where every one of her colleagues can be open and inclusive regardless of what background they come from. Chief Hayman was active in many community organizations and boards and will forever be known as a door opener for our colleagues in the law enforcement and criminal justice communities.

These are just 5 examples of police colleagues who are going above and beyond their day to day job in their organizations to affect change. There are hundreds of others within their police and criminal justice organizations too, we know you are out there and we need you now – more than ever.

We are proud to say that Serving with Pride has the full support of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario, and many other proactive and pro-police community organizations.

Our colleagues will not waiver in their support of our LGBTQ community. They will continue to provide the highest quality service regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, sex, etc. LGBTQ liaison and diversity officers across the province will continue to reach out and provide guidance to their communities.

SWP will continue in our mandate to educate and provide a safe space for our LGBTQ colleagues. We will be at four locations in Ontario in 2017 to provide "LGBT 101" training to our law enforcement and criminal justice colleagues, along with many, many other community events – a first in our history.

In a time where misinformation and discrimination is so easily thrown around, we ask for your continued and unwavering support of your LGBTQ law enforcement and criminal justice colleagues. We will stand by you and we ask that you stand by us too.

Media contact:
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www.servingwithpride.ca