

Yesterday, 12 June 2018, a church leader of the George Community, confronted me regarding the forthcoming visit by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus to George and the George Municipality's support for the event.

I was taken by surprise as I, as Mayor, was not aware that George Municipality was supporting the event. I undertook to look into it.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, I made the radio announcement which has apparently, judged by the reaction, been misunderstood. George Municipality has no policy against LGBT people nor does it discriminate against them in any way.

I simply wanted to bring the point across that just because the Municipality supports an event, people must not take it for granted that that support reflects my own personal beliefs.

As Mayor, in my official capacity and personally, I support the Constitution and its values completely, but personally, as a Christian, I hold certain beliefs regarding LGBT people. This does not mean that I discriminate against them, in fact, I take great care not to as those same Christian beliefs also teaches me that we are all God's children and are all equally loved by him. I am not alone in this – most public officials, whether elected or otherwise, swear to uphold the Constitution, though they might privately hold other religious beliefs.

I have not and will never discriminate against anyone based on race, gender or sexual orientation, whether in my personal or public life. I wish to add that my personal view is not the policy of the DA, and as a DA member, I support their policies in my public life.

A mere statement of my personal beliefs cannot be viewed as discrimination, and it was not meant as such, as I stressed during my radio statement. I am aware that the DA is looking into the matter, but they have not discussed the matter with me yet.

The Municipal Manager is currently out of town, but as far as I could ascertain the event is not supported by the George Municipality as a sponsor.

Lastly I wish to add that as far as I am aware, the event is proceeding as planned and my personal views will not have any effect thereon.