

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP et. al.
Plaintiffs

HARLEY et. al.
Intervening plaintiffs

1:18-cv-02074-WYD-STV

v.

ELENIS et. al.
Defendants

DECLARATION OF LISA BOUCHER CO-OWNER OF WW BRIDAL

1. I, Lisa Boucher, declare under the penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 USC sec. 1746 as follows:

2. I am over 18.

3. I am a resident of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. Twenty-two years ago, my family purchased WW Bridal Boutique. Our plan was to be a light to our community while providing brides and grooms with their wedding attire. During those years, we were able to provide an income for our families. We were able to raise our children without seeking day care. We did not hide the fact that we are Christians. We played Christian music and displayed bible verses throughout the store. We attached gospel tracks to gowns and tuxedos. We felt this was the perfect opportunity to show God's love to everyone we served.

2. In May 2014, Pennsylvania's governor legally recognized same sex marriage. We knew at that time we would have to decide if we were able to service those events. After seeking guidance from our pastor and much prayer, we came to the decision we could not violate our faith by participating in same sex weddings.

3. In August, we received a call from one of our customers. She wanted to make a fitting appointment for a bridesmaid dress she had purchased. She also advised us that she wanted to make an appointment to view our gowns with her partner, who was also a woman. We advised her at that time, we were not serving same sex weddings due to our faith. Within a day, one of the local media stations came to our door seeking a comment. We explained our position off camera.

4. One week later, the local lgbt activists petitioned our town council to seek a non-discrimination ordinance. This ordinance would force us to go against our beliefs in traditional marriage or close. Once this process started, more of the local news stations covered our story. It did not take long for the coverage to become national news. During this time, we received hundreds of hateful emails, voicemails and facebook posts. We also received threats of arson, rape and murder not just to us, but our employees and even our children. The police advised us to close our doors for at least 2 weeks due to these threats. We became appointment only during this time.

5. In December 2014, the ordinance failed to pass by a 5 to 4 vote. After the meeting, the local lgbt activists gathered outside of the fire hall to strategizing their next plan of attack.

6. In July 2017, a same sex couple drove over 50 miles away, passing over a dozen other bridal boutiques to view our gowns. We feel this was a targeted attempt to start the process of an ordinance or gain national attention for free services. One of the women grew up close to Bloomsburg and posted that she knew there was a boutique in Bloomsburg that could not service same sex weddings due to faith. She visited the other bridal boutique before coming in to our store. When the couple came in, they filled out a form which stated bride and grooms information. After replacing groom with bride on form, we advised them we could not service same sex weddings due to our faith. The couple posted on facebook and within an hour, we started receiving hateful message on our facebook page. The post went viral and the national news picked up on the story again. Our doors were locked for another 2 weeks due to additional threats to us, our employees and our children.

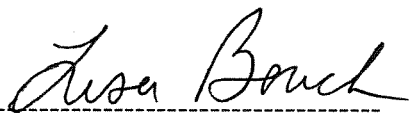
7. During the fall election, the current town council members made it known, if given an opportunity, they would pass a non-discrimination ordinance. We were call bigots, racists and intolerant at an election forum relentlessly. We have documentation from the Democratic committee meeting of a plan to fight with us and make it a "done deal". Due to the election results, we felt it was only a matter of time until someone would target our boutique to start the ordinance process. My family could not handle another attack.

8. With heavy hearts, we decided to close our doors on March 31, 2018 and only service current brides until the end of the year. Religious liberty is under attack in our country. Due to this attack, we have decided to seek protection by asking legislators to sponsor, introduce and pass The Marriage and Constitution Restoration Act. Christians have the right under the First Amendment to exercise our faith, not just at home, but in the public square. This right must be protected from the religion of lgbt Secular Humanism attempts to silence anyone that disagrees with their agenda. All of the suffering that my family has had to endure is the direct result of the government's decision to endorse and entangle itself with LGBTQ ideology. We are asking that the Courts and legislators obey their duty under Article VI by requiring the government to disentangle itself with the LGBTQ church and the religion of Secular Humanism by simply enforcing the First Amendment Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution.

9. Here is one article about our closing.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-bridal-shop-closes-down-over-fear-of-lgbt-law-after-facing-death-threats-220306/>. I have also prepared a timeline of events.

10. I, Lisa Boucher, declare under the penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and accurate.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Boucher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Lisa Boucher

Co-owner of WW Bridal

<http://wwbridal.com/>

Timeline

June 18, 2014

Jeanean Yordy came into the shop and said that she was looking for a wedding gown and that she was lesbian. She asked if that was ok, and our employee said yes. She looked through gowns and our employee helped her find a discontinued style that she really liked. It was too small, so we agreed to put a corsette in the back when her gown was paid in full. She put down \$100 to hold the gown.

June 20, 2014

Jeanean Yordy and her partner, Cynthia Freeland, came in to find an outfit for Cynthia for their wedding. Our employee worked with them and showed her different options. She helped her find a pant suit that she really liked from the Alfred Angelo mother's collection. Cynthia put \$150. down to order the top and pants in ivory. While in the store, Jeanean tried on her bridal gown for Cynthia to see, and she asked if we could use some of her pink taffeta sash to make a sash for Cynthia's outfit so they could match. We said that we could do that.

July 9, 2014

Tricia Madden came in to make an appointment for her and her fiancée, Leah Bogart, to look at Bridal gowns. She said they wanted to come in at the same time but not see each other. Our employee told her that it would be difficult to do, and they should really set up separate appointments. Tricia made an appointment for August 9th at 9 AM. She also made an appointment for August 6th at 5 PM for Leah. Our employee then explained that we would be happy to help her and her fiancée, but we believe in the sanctity of marriage as written by God in the Bible. She explained that when they come for their appointment, we would want to speak with them briefly, not to preach. Tricia said that she wouldn't mind because she was Lutheran, but Leah wouldn't want to hear anything. We marked it as such in the appointment book, so that no one would say anything to Leah at her appointment time.

7/21/14

Emailed town of bloomsburg administrator, William Lowtherp, to ask if any laws of anti discrimination were currently in town. He advised us to contact our attorney.

8/4/2014

Answered phone for appointment for Yorke bridesmaid party fitting. She advised me that she would also like an appointment for her and her fiancé (who was also a woman) to look at bridals. I placed her on hold and then I scheduled an appointment for bridesmaid fitting at which time I advised her "We are not currently serving same sex weddings, I don't want to offend you, but we currently are not. She seemed ok and said she would see us at her appointment August 23rd at 10:00am.

8/5/2014

Received email saying the media was contacted about our refusal

WBRE came in for interview which we refused to comment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu7qCKmZW8g>

Advised that our facebook was going to get bad because bride posted.

Aug 6, 2014

The scheduled appointment came in for a same sex wedding. We advised her at that time "I'm not sure if you have seen news, but since we scheduled your appointment we have decided not to serve same sex marriages based on our religious convictions. I don't want to offend you, but we need to stand with our convictions." She said "ok" and left.

We received a phone call advising us that "you will be receiving a lot of phone call due to a post on facebook about not giving someones money back and a same sex issue. I just wanted to let you know."

Aug 7, 2014

Phone call from Thomas Fry telling us he supports our shop and stand and that he would do whatever he can to help even as far as donate for the cause.

Phone call from someone yelling at us. We hung up they called back yelling "You don't support gays?" I hung up.

Phone call from female asking to make appointment to look for gowns. She asked if it was true what she saw on facebook. Told her that we have sold prom gowns and tuxedos to the gay and lesbian community, but do to religious beliefs, we cannot sell bridal gowns to same sex couples. She said she wanted to take all of her business elsewhere.

Phone call 4:05pm From a male saying, "I hope your business runs into the ground." Our employee asked if he would like the # of our lawyer he said no and she said "Have a nice day."

Started receiving hateful emails and voice mails. Call were estimated to be around 100 a day for the next 2 weeks.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2014/08/08/Refusal-to-sell-wedding-gowns-to-lesbian-couple-stirs-debate-in-Bloomsburg/stories/201408080173>

<http://bloomutoday.com/bridal-store-denies-same-sex-couple-gowns-in-bloomsburg-p2187-1.htm>

8/8/14

A lady came in to shop to advise us that she worked as a human resource department of a company and she needed to ask us a few questions. She heard what had happened and wanted to know how we came to our decision before she joined in the group to destroy our business. She told us she was gay. We gave her some bible verses. She thanked us for speaking to her and left.

Article

<https://www.opposingviews.com/religion/christian-bridal-shop-turns-down-same-sex-couple-video>

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2014/08/bridal-shop-wont-serve-lesbian-couple-because-it-would-break-gods-law/>

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2014/aug/08/pa-shop-no-wedding-gowns-lesbian-couple/>

http://www.pennlive.com/nation-world/2014/08/bridal_shop_refuses_to_sell_go.html

<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Pa-Shop-No-Wedding-Gowns-for-Lesbian-Couple-270518091.html>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/aug/8/bridal-shop-declines-sell-wedding-gowns-gays/>

8/9/14

 **2LoveNotH8**
August 9, 2014 · 🌐 👍 Like Page ***

Bridal shop won't serve lesbian couples because it 'would break God's law':
BLOOMSBURG, Pa. -- A bridal store's refusal to sell wedding gowns to a same-sex couple is stirring debate in a central Pennsylvania town. The Press Enterprise reports two women — who wish to remain anonymous — tried to schedule an appointment at W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pa., but were turned down after the shop owner learned they were a lesbian couple...
#Pennsylvania #BloomsburgPA #BridalShop #Discrimination



WWW.LGBTQNATION.COM 📘 About this article

Bridal shop won't serve lesbian couples because it 'would break God's law'

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Getshore

August 9, 2014 · 🌐

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Christian wedding boutique refuses dresses for lesbian couple

August the 9th, 2014. By Joseph Patrick McCormick

Source: Pinknews.co.uk

A Christian wedding boutique in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, has found itself amid a controversy for refusing to serve a lesbian couple. The WW Bridal shop's owners spoke to local media, and admitted turning away a lesbian couple because of their religious beliefs. They said they had sought legal counsel in case the couple decide to sue.

Because the state of Pennsylvania does not have a law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation, attorneys have suggested the shop may be within its rights. One of the women originally posted on Facebook to state that she had called the shop to arrange fittings for her and her partner.

After being on hold for several minutes, a worker at the shop said she could not arrange the fitting "because they currently do not service same-sex couples — it's just not something they do."

Facebook commenters have taken to the social network to express their distaste at the actions of the shop. One wrote: "As a fellow Christian, I'm ashamed of people like you. We are taught to love our neighbor regardless. Did you skip that part?"

2 Shares

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Earl Allen

August 9, 2014 · 🌐

...

I went to their web site and the Contact us is disabled. But not to be deterred I did get this. W.W. Bridal, 601 Market St, Bloomsburg, PA 17815 (570) 784-6216. You may want them to know how you feel about their policies.

Thanks for posting Shabbus



RAWSTORY.COM

Pennsylvania bridal shop won't sell gowns to lesbian couple, sparking backlash

👍 1

11 Comments

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Article

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2721014/Bridal-Shop-turns-down.html>

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/national-international/Pa-Shop-No-Wedding-Gowns-for-Lesbian-Couple-270518091.html?akmobile=o>

<https://thinkprogress.org/pennsylvania-bridal-shop-refuses-business-to-same-sex-couple-legally-bdcf77b76ca6/>

<https://www.phillymag.com/g-philly/2014/08/09/pa-bridal-shop-wont-sell-lesbian-couples/>

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/2014/08/09/christian-owner-of-bridal-boutique-denies-wedding-gowns-to-lesbian-couple-then-a-complaint-hit-the-interneticle>

https://www.buzzfeed.com/rachelzarrell/pennsylvania-bridal-shop-refuses-lesbian-couple-wedding-gown?utm_term=.hoLdMlzyG#.pqxRm1Geo

<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/national-international/Pa-Shop-No-Wedding-Gowns-for-Lesbian-Couple-270518091.html>

<https://www.newsmax.com/us/bridal-shop-refuse-dress/2014/08/09/id/587846/>

8/10/14

Article

<https://thinkprogress.org/pennsylvania-bridal-shop-refuses-business-to-same-sex-couple-legally-bdcf77b76ca6/>

<http://revelationtv.com/rnews/entry/christian-wedding-gown-retailer-refuses-to-serve-lesbian-couple-because-of>

http://www.ontopmag.com/article/19208/Bridal_Store_Owner_Claims_Gods_Law_In_Refusing_To_Sell_Wedding_Gowns_To_Lesbian_Couple

<https://christiannews.net/2014/08/10/christian-owned-bridal-shop-under-fire-for-declining-to-schedule-lesbian-gown-fitting/>.

Facebook post



Michaelann C. F. Dahlman via LGBTQ Nation

August 10, 2014

"Bloomsburg Town Council plans to discuss the incident at a meeting on Monday. Council members say they will consider whether to propose legislation to ban businesses from refusing to serve gays and lesbians."

I hope that the city of Bloomsburg does pass an ordinance protect the rights of the LGBT people of the city. These people deserve to be protected from discrimination. Hopefully the state of Pennsylvania will do so as well, to protect couples statewide.



LGBTQNATION.COM

Pennsylvania: Bridal shop refuses service to lesbian couple because it 'would break God's law'

About this article

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Bulgebull.com

August 10, 2014

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Pennsylvania Bridal Shop Refuses to Sell Wedding Gown to Lesbian Couple: VIDEO <http://ift.tt/1yjAKD6>

A bridal store in Columbia County, Pennsylvania is under fire for turning away a lesbian couple looking to buy wedding gowns, the AP reports:

W.W. Bridal Boutique owner Victoria Miller tells the newspaper that "providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law."

Bloomsburg Town Council plans to discuss the incident at a meeting on Monday. Council members say they will consider whether to propose legislation to ban businesses from refusing to serve gays and lesbians.

Check out a news report on the story, AFTER THE JUMP..

The New York Daily News adds:

In the meantime, Miller isn't budging. She's hired an attorney to help defend her in case a lawsuit is filed.

Her lawyer Al Luschas says his client has a "liberty interest" in refusing to be involved in a wedding that violates her "firmly and honestly held religious beliefs."

Pennsylvania remains one of the 29 states without a comprehensive, sexual orientation-inclusive non-discrimination law on the books.

<http://ift.tt/1sBGhU0>

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 **Bulgebull.com**
August 10, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ⋮

PA Bridal Shop Rejects Lesbian Couple

Via the Associated Press:
A bridal store's refusal to sell wedding gowns to a same-sex couple is stirring debate in a central Pennsylvania town. W.W. Bridal Boutique owner Victoria Miller tells the newspaper that "providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law." Bloomsburg Town Council plans to discuss the incident at a meeting on Monday. Council members say they will consider whether to propose legislation to ban businesses from refusing to serve gays and lesbians.

Pennsylvania is one of 29 states with no statewide public accommodation protections for LGBT citizens although such protections exist in 34 municipalities in the state. RELATED: A bill before the Pennsylvania state legislature would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations. It currently has 96 co-sponsors in the House. <http://ift.tt/1vtuJYm>

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August 10, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ⋮

A Christian bridal shop owner in Pennsylvania had a message for a pair of blushing brides-to-be: We don't serve lesbians. The unidentified couple tried to schedule an appointment at W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, only to be told by an employee ...

 **Pennsylvania bridal shop: We don't serve lesbians**

Like Comment Share ⋮

Aug 11, 2014

Jean ann Yordy called and left message to discuss her account. I called her back to let her know we would fulfill our contract with her. She advised me that she would like a refund because she thought it was discrimination. I told her that would be fine and we would send a check to Cynthia Freeland. I called her back to ask if she would send a letter asking for a refund and she agreed she would.

Doors are lock for 2 weeks due to threats. We are appointment only at this time. We contacted police, but they advised us to put a no trespassing sign out front and to call if someone came in.

Voicemail threats:

https://www.facebook.com/wwbridalboutique/videos/1508450725950880/?hc_ref=ARTvLdCOcaXQYW K6j2okQwjHeRcGe1svPBtmyrNtveGDzgVvbfY9tXShpjPrfpTId6o

https://www.facebook.com/wwbridalboutique/videos/1506298549499431/?hc_ref=ARSnBtRUqnrkYldh n8motrkRT0z49m4ZUU0U1aQrc9Aw0ZqWkIGKqBIP43abH1c-WYU

Dwayne Heisler introduced ordinance to town council.

Article

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/wwjtd/2014/08/w-w-bridal-in-pennsylvania-refuses-service-to-lesbian-couple/>

<https://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/us-christian-boutique-raises-stir-by-refusing-to-serve-lesbian-couple/25969.htm>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/pennsylvania-bridal-shop-don-serve-lesbians-article-1.1898001>

<http://keystonestudentvoice.com/2014/08/bloomsburg-nondiscrim/>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/11/ww-bridal-boutique-lesbia_n_5668645.html

<https://www.au.org/blogs/wall-of-separation/bridal-backlash-fundamentalist-shop-owners-refuse-to-serve-same-sex-couple>

<http://www.topix.com/forum/city/bloomsburg-pa/TVI9CU9C99MD5GVRV/pennsylvanias-w-w-bridal-boutique-under-fire-for-r>

<https://www.endtime.com/prophecy-news/christian-owner-bridal-boutique-denies-wedding-gowns-lesbian-couple/>



Dane B. McFadhen



August 11, 2014 · 🌐

Sunday unfunnies - Pennsylvania Bridal Shop Refuses to Sell Wedding Gown to Lesbian Couple: VIDEO

A bridal store in Columbia County, Pennsylvania is under fire for turning away a lesbian couple looking to buy wedding gowns, the AP reports:

W.W. Bridal Boutique owner Victoria Miller tells the newspaper that "providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law."

Bloomsburg Town Council plans to discuss the incident at a meeting on Monday. Council members say they will consider whether to propose legislation to ban businesses from refusing to serve gays and lesbians.

The New York Daily News adds:

In the meantime, Miller isn't budging. She's hired an attorney to help defend her in case a lawsuit is filed.

Her lawyer Al Luschas says his client has a "liberty interest" in refusing to be involved in a wedding that violates her "firmly and honestly held religious beliefs."

Incidentally, Pennsylvania remains one of the 29 states without a comprehensive, sexual orientation-inclusive non-discrimination law on the books.

Story:

<http://www.sfgate.com/.../Pa-shop-No-wedding-gowns-for-lesbia...>

Want to leave a message? Here's the facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/.../W-W-Bridal-Bouti.../151619521520584>



© PAhomepage

👍 2

7 Comments 5 Shares

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Judith Cocoves Fleming via ThinkProgress

August 11, 2014

"Pennsylvania is currently the only state in which same-sex couples can legally marry, but also legally be refused jobs, housing, and public services just because of their sexual orientation. Many municipalities across the commonwealth have passed local nondiscrimination protections to compensate for the lack of state and federal laws, but Bloomsburg is not one of them — yet. This means that the discrimination these women experienced was perfectly legal."



Jose L. Mangual Jr via Christian News Network

August 11, 2014

A Christian-owned bridal shop in Pennsylvania is under fire for declining to schedule a gown fitting for two lesbian women.

According to reports, an unidentified woman called W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg recently to schedule a gown fitting for herself and her lesbian partner. When the owner, Victoria Miller, declined by stating that the business could not accommodate the request, the woman took to Facebook to post about the matter.

(article section)



CHRISTIANNEWS.NET

Christian-Owned Bridal Shop Under Fire for Declining to Schedule Lesbian Gown Fitting

1

2 Comments 1 Share

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8/12/14

We received phone calls from family members and friends advising us that WNEP 16 had announced us as "Permanently Closed". I had a record of the phone number for Sara of WNEP 16 from a previous request for interview. I called the phone number to advise her that we are still open. I said "Why are you reporting that we are closed and we are open" she said "I didn't do that" so I told her it was reported on the 5:00 pm news WNEP 16 that we were closed permanently. I asked her to call the station right away to inform them that that was incorrect. I told her we could see them parked down the street from our front window and the sign in the window said "Open" and also that we will be getting phone calls from our customers concerned. She made me aware of our facebook account which displayed that our status was Permanently Closed and a new picture was posted as our profile picture. I told her I deactivated our account and haven't been on it to make any changes in a week someone else must have change it. She said they probably hacked our website too. I advised her we were still not making any comment other than "Business as usual".

5:10 pm I was notified that WNEP reported that W W BRIDAL was closed permanently. After signing on WNEP website, I was again notified at 5:14pm that WNEP had run the same report. I immediately called the shop to let them know about report. I emailed WNEP on their news hotline notifying them that W W Bridal was open. I was greatly disappointed that the so called local number one news network was providing unverified information. I asked two questions, what is this going to do with our business and is this part of their agenda to shut us down. I would like an answer and submitted request.

5:40 pm I saw the second running stating we were closed. At 6:00 pm they had upcoming breaking news about W W Bridal. The true story was aired later in the program.

We later were advised that WBRE was also providing the same unverified information. I called the news line and expressed the same concern to the answering service. They have since called and would be issuing contraction Wednesday, Aug 13.

<http://wnep.com/2014/08/12/shop-at-center-of-controversy-says-business-as-usual/>

articles

<https://www.mediamatters.org/blog/2014/08/12/breitbart-attacks-lesbian-bridezillas-for-oppos/200396>

<https://mic.com/articles/95934/a-bride-was-turned-away-from-her-local-wedding-boutique-simply-for-being-herself#.UxSnIndS7>

<http://capitolresource.org/bridal-shop-sees-backlash-after-refusing-lesbians/>



Equality Pennsylvania

August 12, 2014

Good luck to all in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania tonight where they are introducing a nondiscrimination ordinance.



NYDAILYNEWS.COM

Pennsylvania bridal shop turns away lesbian couple to avoid breaking 'God's law'

A Christian bridal shop owner in Pennsylvania had a message for a pair of blushing...

522

80 Comments 89 Shares

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Joan Craft published an article on WordPress.

August 12, 2014 · WordPress

A Pennsylvania bridal salon is feeling the heat after reportedly turning away a lesbian couple who were seeking wedding gowns. Victoria Miller, who owns the W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, is quoted by the Associated Press as saying that providing the...



Pennsylvania's W.W. Bridal Boutique Under Fire For Reportedly Turning Away Lesbian Brides-To-Be

A Pennsylvania bridal salon is feeling the heat after reportedly turning away a lesbian couple...

WORDPRESS

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WNEP-TV

August 12, 2014

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Some municipalities have passed ordinances like the one Bloomsburg is considering, which ban same-sex discrimination. What do you think?



WNEP.COM

Bloomsburg May Consider Same-Sex Discrimination Ban

BLOOMSBURG -- Council members in Bloomsburg are considering...


600

568 Comments 156 Shares


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 **Alison Duncan Hirsch**
August 12, 2014 · 🌐

Something wrong with this picture: A couple can get married in PA but then can't buy wedding gear at their local store. Good on Bloomsburg for opening up a discussion to get a non-discrimination ordinance passed.



PAHOMEPAGE.COM
Same-Sex Discrimination Sparks Change
An incident involving a bridal boutique and a lesbian couple is prompting...

👍 16

👍 Like ➦ Share

 **RDTdaily.com**
August 12, 2014 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ⋮

CONservatives have nothing to offer a modern nation and would all be more comfortable living in times that normal Americans would rather we left in the dung heap of history... and here's more proof.

"Pennsylvania is currently the only state in which same-sex couples can legally marry, but also legally be refused jobs, housing, and public services just because of their sexual orientation. Many municipalities across the commonwealth have passed local nondiscrimination protections to compensate for the lack of state and federal laws, but Bloomsburg is not one of them — yet. This means that the discrimination these women experienced was perfectly legal.

The Press Enterprise of Bloomsburg spoke with boutique owner Victoria Miller, who defended the discrimination. 'We feel we have to answer to God for what we do,' she explained, 'And providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law.' Her lawyer, Al Luschas, added that Miller has a 'liberty interest' if the wedding violates her 'firmly and honestly held religious beliefs.'

"Funny" how W.W. Bridal Boutique is so worried about "God's law" while continuing to accept credit cards as payment, given the Bible's frequent and STRICT condemnations of usury - lending with interest. Oh, that's right... they're just another example of ignorant, hate-filled CONS who blame their own personal, irrational, prejudices on a giant man on a cloud who is, curiously, just a giant version of their ignorant, hate-filled, selves.


8/13/14

Travis Weber and Michael Greer from PA FAMILY reached out to our lawyer

Article

<https://pafamily.org/2014/08/religious-liberty-threats-follow-marriage-redefinition/>

Facebook post

 D Uwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County Like Page ***
August 13, 2014 · @

A BIG thank you to all the supporters who showed up for the Bloomsburg Town Council meeting yesterday in opposition to the LGBT discrimination which occurred in Bloomsburg. I want to thank the town council for advancing the proposed ordinance to committee and I will be attending those meetings.


Many of you have commented about today's Press Enterprise story describing remarks made AFTER the official discussion of the ordinance and at the very end of the meeting when all the supporters left as "lame" and "cowardly". Although I would have liked an open debate about the discrimination that took place, that was not the intent of the people supporting this type discrimination. It is nothing new for the "religious right", as described in the paper, to claim to be the victim when it is there very action that discriminates.

I have been offered help by two different ministers who are willing to be among the countless others who believe that you can be Christian and accepting at the same time. As they have said, we don't have to all have the same beliefs - we are just asking for these business owners to be treated as they would want to be treated.

For most of you, you believe that there was already a law in place to prevent such blatant discrimination but sadly in the state of Pennsylvania and in the town of Bloomsburg, that is not the case. There are things you can do.

- 1) Share and like this post. Let people know that you stand with the majority of citizens who believe that if you are open to the public for business - that means ALL citizens including LGBT. Separate but equal does not work.
- 2) Register to vote and do so. Most people only vote during the Presidential years but most of your local officials who affect your everyday life such as town councils, commissioners, school board members, and local judges are elected in the non-Presidential years.
- 3) On Tuesday, August 19th, at 7pm there is a meeting of the Columbia County Democratic Committee (CCDC) which is open to all Democrats. Contact me to attend as my guest. We have open meetings and our platform is clear. The CCDC and the Democratic Party as a whole does not stand for discrimination of any kind including against LGBT.
- 4) The proposed town ordinance mirrors the PA House Bill 300 and has been adopted in several forms in 34 Pennsylvania municipalities. One of the prime sponsors of this bill, Representative Brian Sims, is coming to Columbia County and speaking at DemFest 2014 on August 23rd at Knoebels tent #6 (11am-2pm). This is a free event with speakers and great entertainment. Representative Sims will be discussing anti-discrimination in PA and how it is shameful that it is still possible to have an LGBT person thrown out of a restaurant, fired from a job, or even denied service at a business. Come to DemFest 2014 and meet Representative Sims.

Join the PARTY for a fun filled day and let your voice be heard.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/426033067543536/>



<https://www.facebook.com/events/426033067543536/>



Dwayne Heisler

August 13, 2014 · 🌐

I was just interviewed for a followup story by WNEP Channel 16 regarding the incident of discrimination in downtown Bloomsburg. Specifically they wanted to know my reaction to the possibility or rumor that the bridal shop may be going out of business.



👍 43

18 Comments 5 Shares

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💬 Comment

➦ Share

Article

<https://thegailygrind.com/2014/08/13/christian-bridal-shop-denies-bride-services-god-dissapproves-gays/>

<https://twocare.org/religious-right-wishes-to-discriminate-freely-without-criticism-or-repercussions/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-bridal-shop-faces-wrath-of-gay-advocates-for-refusing-lesbian-wedding-because-it-would-break-gods-law-124786/>

<http://www.womenofgrace.com/blog/?p=32442>

http://gomag.com/article/2pa_bridal_shop_refuses_t/

<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/post/anti-lgbt-activists-are-furious-that-discriminatory-businesses-received-bad-reviews/>

8/14/14

Dwayne Heisler does interview about ordinance he introduced to town

 **Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County** Like Page ***
August 16, 2014 · 🌐

Here is an interview regarding the recent discrimination in Bloomsburg. Bloomsburg is considering an ordinance to address this type of discrimination. Please share this and like it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQrpvoRVD8>




YOUTUBE.COM
Dwayne Heisler LGBT Caucus Member
Discrimination in Bloomsburg


 4 3 Comments 9 Shares

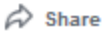
 Like  Comment  Share 

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQrpvoRVD8>

 **Frank Buggey** ***
August 14, 2014 · Philadelphia, PA · 🌐

The reason why #HB300 needs to pass is because the Bloomsburg bridal shop that turned away the lesbian couple acted within their legal rights. Since discrimination based on (perceived) sexual orientation and gender identity is PERFECTLY LEGAL in the state of Pennsylvania, they didn't do anything "wrong." Equal rights don't end at marriage equality. Pennsylvania didn't "win" anything yet.

 3

 Share

Article

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/35797-pennsylvanias-ww-bridal-boutique-turns-away-a-same-sex-couple-looking-for-gowns>

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/45028-lesbians-bully-bridal-shop-over-gay-wedding-gowns>



Pennsylvania Family Council

August 14, 2014 · 🌐

It has long been contended by proponents of the traditional definition of marriage that with the abandonment of that definition will come assaults to the religious liberties we have long taken for granted. Naturally, those predictions were pooh-pooed, even by many people who support the traditional definition; many people on both sides of the debate over marriage want the issue to begin and end with the legal boundaries of of the institution. But that was never realistic, as has played out across the country, and as is playing out here in Pennsylvania.

In the last week, two Pennsylvania businesses—a bakery and a bridal shop—declined to provide services for same-sex weddings. That these two incidents were announced so close to one another in time and space (the businesses are 40 miles apart) strongly suggests that these businesses were targeted to create PR buzz for House Bill 300 (tinyurl.com/Oppose300), which would create special classes in state law for sexual orientation and gender identity—and would bar business owners like these from making decisions about what services they will render based on their religious convictions under threat of jail time.

As in all the other celebrated cases of wedding vendor “discrimination” against same-sex couples, these Pennsylvania business owners do not object the their customers as people. The Bloomsburg bridal shop owner specifically indicated that he’s happy to fit apparel for people who identify with the LGBT community, but that applying his craft to the celebration of a marriage that violates his beliefs is unacceptable. This is about marriage and whether the state’s redefinition of marriage must be assented to by all of its citizens regardless of their opinion of the matter.

For same-sex marriage activists, the work isn’t done until everybody agrees—or at least pretends to agree. “We’d love for every venue and wedding purveyor to be 100 percent supportive [of same-sex marriage],” said a vendor at NEPA PrideFest. And that’s the point of HB 300—to enforce uniformity across Pennsylvania on the question of the definition of marriage and of sexuality itself, which are, and ought to remain in our law, matters of conscience.

#ReligiousFreedom



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Joan Craft ▸ All The News

August 15, 2014 · IFTTT ·

Pennsylvania's Cake Pros Bakery Rejects Lesbian Couple's Cake As Owner Vows To 'Stand True To God' The owner of a popular Pennsylvania bakery is feeling the heat after reportedly rejecting a lesbian couple's request for a cake. Bethany and Jennifer Petrich had hoped to order a cake for a forthcoming ceremony to renew their vows from The Cake Pros, a bakery in Schuylkill Haven, but were turned away by owner Lorraine Fleming, WFMZ is reporting. Fleming told the news station that she was "sorry for the damage that's been done as far as hurt feelings," but noted, "I'm not sorry for my decision and I feel strong. I know that I'm doing the right thing." In an interview with Pennsylvania's Eyewitness News, she added, "We have homosexuality in our family and it was a hard decision to make, but in the end when I die and I'm one on one with God, I have to stand true to him." The news comes just days after W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania turned away a lesbian couple who hoped to buy wedding gowns. Victoria Miller, the bridal salon's owner, said that providing the women dresses "for a sanctified marriage would break God's law," according to the Associated Press. A number of wedding vendors and business owners have made national headlines in recent months after turning away same-sex couples, usually citing religious grounds. Among them was Jack Phillips, owner of Colorado's Masterpiece Cakeshop, vowed to stop making wedding cakes entirely after a court ruled that he'd discriminated against a pair of gay grooms-to-be when he refused to sell them a cake. Last month, Oregon's Sweet Cakes by Melissa posted a series of photos showing desserts the company prepared for Restored Hope, a group which has advocated for reparative, or "ex-gay," therapy. That bakery was at the epicenter of a media firestorm in 2013, when co-owner Aaron Klein argued that he and his wife, Melissa, were simply living in accordance with their religious beliefs when they rejected a lesbian couple's request for a wedding cake. By Curtis M. Wong The owner of a popular Pennsylvania bakery is feeling the heat after reportedly rejecting a lesbian couple's request for a cake. Bethany and Jennifer Petrich had hoped to order a cake for a forthcoming ceremony to renew their vows from The Cake Pros, a bakery in Schuylkill Haven, but were turned away by owner Lorraine Fleming, WFMZ is reporting. Fleming told the news station that she was "sorry for the damage that's been done as far as hurt feelings," but noted, "I'm not sorry for my decision and I feel strong. I know that I'm doing the right thing." In an interview with Pennsylvania's Eyewitness News, she added, "We have homosexuality in our family and it was a hard decision to make, but in the end when I die and I'm one on one with God, I have to stand true to him." The news comes just days after W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania turned away a

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THEALLNEWS.COM

Pennsylvania's Cake Pros Bakery Rejects Lesbian Couple's Cake As Owner Vows To 'Stand True To God'



Like



Share

8/15/14

Article

<https://www.familyfirst.org.nz/2014/08/bridal-shop-latest-target-of-angry-gay-marriage-protest-us/>

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/18918-pennsylvania-bridal-shop-targeted-for-refusing-same-sex-couple>



Antitheist Herald

August 15, 2014 · 🌐

Like Page ***

"Anti-gay discrimination masquerading as 'religious freedom' is back in the news after the owners of a Bloomsburg, Pa., bridal shop turned a lesbian couple away. Think Progress reports that the owners cited their Christian beliefs as the motivation for the decision.

"We feel we have to answer to God for what we do, and providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law," said Victoria Miller, who co-owns W.W. Bridal."

#gayrights #religiousintolerance



AU.ORG

Bridal Backlash: Fundamentalist Shop Owners Refuse to Serve Same-Sex Couple | Americans United

Bridal Backlash: Fundamentalist Shop Owners Refuse to Serve Same-Sex Couple Aug 11,...

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2LoveNotH8

August 15, 2014 · 🌐

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Pennsylvania's Cake Pros Bakery Rejects Lesbian Couple's Cake As Owner Vows To 'Stand True To God': The owner of a popular Pennsylvania bakery is feeling the heat after reportedly rejecting a lesbian couple's request for a cake. Bethany and Jennifer Petrich had hoped to order a cake for a forthcoming ceremony to renew their vows from The Cake Pros, a bakery in Schuylkill Haven, but were turned away by owner Lorraine Fleming, WFMZ is reporting. Fleming told the news station that she was "sorry for the damage that's been done as far as hurt feelings," but noted, "I'm not sorry for my decision and I feel strong. I know that I'm doing the right thing." In an interview with Pennsylvania's Eyewitness News, she added, "We have homosexuality in our family and it was a hard decision to make, but in the end when I die and I'm one on one with God, I have to stand true to him." The news comes just days after W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania turned away a lesbian couple who hoped to buy wedding gowns. Victoria Miller, the bridal salon's owner, said that providing the women dresses "for a sanctified marriage would break God's law," according to the Associated Press. A number of wedding vendors and business owners have made national headlines in recent months after turning away same-sex couples, usually citing religious grounds. Among them was Jack Phillips, owner of Colorado's Masterpiece Cakeshop, vowed to stop making wedding cakes entirely after a court ruled that he'd discriminated against a pair of gay grooms-to-be when he refused to sell them a cake. Last month, Oregon's Sweet Cakes by Melissa posted a series of photos showing desserts the company prepared for Restored Hope, a group which has advocated for reparative, or "ex-gay," therapy. That bakery was at the epicenter of a media firestorm in 2013, when co-owner Aaron Klein argued that he and his wife, Melissa, were simply living in accordance with their religious beliefs when they rejected a lesbian couple's request for a wedding cake.



Sandra Jones-Decker

August 15, 2014 · 🌐

Victoria and Tom Miller, owners of a Pennsylvania bridal shop, have been stunned at the amount of death threats they've received since turning down a double-gown order for a lesbian wedding. Liberals were so incensed by the couple's decision that they convened a special meeting of the Bloomsburg city council for the sole purpose of drafting a local ordinance the homosexuals could sue under. The bridal owners were accused of prejudice and hate because of their moral beliefs. One lawyer said, "The town should protect the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender individuals, but it shouldn't do it at the expense of religion." Gene Mills, head of the Louisiana Family Forum, put it this way: "The so-called fairness ordinance actually should be called the homosexual affirmation ordinance." It has nothing to do with equality or discrimination. It's about tearing down the constitutional rights to conscience and demanding conformity. "Intolerance in the pursuit of tolerance is simply hypocrisy," Gene explained. Fortunately, the Baton Rouge City Council agreed and sank the measure 8-4.

🔗 Share


8/16/14

News report

<http://wnep.com/2014/08/11/bloomsburg-may-consider-same-sex-discrimination-ban/>

Article


<https://brianpeytonjoyner.com/blog/lesbian-bridezillas-and-lessons-we-can-learn-from-legally-blonde/>

 **Keystone Progress** August 16, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ⋮

Almost 70% of voters in Pennsylvania agree that no one should be discriminated against for being gay or transgender, and voters agree that there should be a law to protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. But it's happening here in PA right now --

- * About a month ago, a wedding venue outside of Scranton told a lesbian couple that they would have to "find somewhere that will fulfill all your wedding dreams" because they could not serve a lesbian couple who wanted to get married.
- * Last week, a bridal shop in Bloomsburg turned away two women who wanted to buy dresses for their wedding because of they are a gay couple.
- * This week, a bakery in Schuylkill Haven refused to sell a cake to a lesbian couple who wants to renew their wedding vows.

Sign out petition to legislators to end LGBT discrimination in PA!
[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/end-discrimination-now/...](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/end-discrimination-now/)



ACTIONNETWORK.ORG
End discrimination now!
 Everyone deserves the same fair and equal treatment, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. "Open to the public" should mean open to everyone, fairly and

👍 5 1 Comment 5 Shares

Like Comment Share ⋮

 **Europeans for La Manif** August 18, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ⋮

Pennsylvania bridal shop turns away lesbian couple to avoid breaking 'God's law'

A lesbian couple tried to schedule a wedding gown appointment at W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg — but the owner insisted that serving a same-sex couple would be against her religious beliefs.



NYDAILYNEWS.COM
Pennsylvania bridal shop turns away lesbian couple to avoid breaking 'God's law'

8/19/14



Ronald Bear

...

August 19, 2014 · 🌐

Lesbians Bully Bridal Shop Over Gay-Wedding Gowns by Jennifer LeClaire
First Christian bakeries, then Christian photographers, now Christian bridal shops. It's hard to believe the gay agenda isn't specifically looking for Christian business owners to bully.

The latest news comes out of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. A lesbian couple reportedly wanted to set an appointment at W.W. Bridal Boutique but were told, effectively, "We don't cater to lesbians."

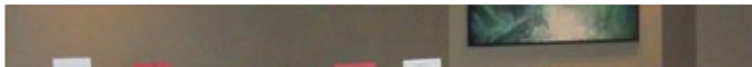
"We feel we have to answer to God for what we do," owner Victoria Miller told The Press Enterprise. And providing those two girls dresses for a sanctified marriage would break God's law."

The lesbians didn't take too kindly to Miller's stance and posted their complaint on Facebook. Of course, the post went viral, and gays and others sympathetic to the lesbians' cause tanked their social-media rankings with one-star reviews.

One man commented, "Jesus made everyone feel welcome, shame you are not a follower of Christ."

Another wrote on Yelp, "Your business should be shut down. I bet back in the 50's and 60's you people would have discriminated against blacks and before that Japanese and before that, Jews. It's always some group or something with you religious bigots. #lgbtrights"

What happens now? The (New York) Daily News reports the Bloomsburg Town Council is planning to hold a meeting on Monday to discuss the incident. Specifically, the paper says, council members are debating whether to propose legislation that would ban businesses from refusing to serve LGBT customers.



Article

<https://www.catholic.org/news/national/story.php?id=56570>

<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/barbara-hollingsworth/bridal-shop-bullied-not-participating-lesbian-wedding>

8/21/14

<http://www.atheistrepublic.com/news/christian-bridal-shop-faces-wrath-gay-advocates-discriminating>



Sparky Miller

August 21, 2014 · 🌐

...

It Cuts Both Ways

The battle of gay weddings is back in the news. No, I'm not talking about laws that allow/disallow gay weddings. I'm talking about another gay couple getting into the news because they did not get the service they wanted at a specific shop...a Christian shop.

A Christian-run bridal boutique in Bloomburg, Pa., refused service to a lesbian couple because the proprietor said serving a same-sex wedding would violate her belief in how to live her life. The couple took to social media to bring the issue up, but the Bloomburg Town Council is what concerns me. They are considering legislation to ban discrimination against the LGBT community.

So...religious freedom is colliding with the gay community's desire for universal acceptance.

Look, let's be honest, this is a difficult issue for everyone concerned. Trust me, I know. I'm a gay man. I'm also a Christian. Tell me there aren't some seriously fundamental conflicts I have to navigate.

What I might respectfully advise a fellow Christian to do concerning their business is one thing. Whether they follow that advice or not is up to them. Yes, I think serving gay couples is a good idea because, if nothing else, it will give that shop owner a chance to share the Gospel. At the very least, it'll let that shop owner display the love of Christ, the kind of love that had the "tax collectors and sinners" clamoring to hang out with Him. However, ultimately that shop owner HAS to do what they believe God directs them to do. Simply operating a business does not require one to check their faith at their front door.

I also completely respect those in the gay community who believe there SHOULD be universal acceptance. I walk in that world too. However, I can't in good conscience demand that people of faith be forced to violate that faith anymore than I would demand gays like me be stuck back in a closet of darkness.

We live in a civil society, but part of that is accepting we don't get everything we want because everything we want will inevitably strip someone else of their rights. While I know that being denied a service by a PRIVATE BUSINESS can be hurtful, I seriously caution my brothers and sisters in the LGBT community to be careful about using government to coerce people of faith into doing things "our way." That is a dangerous, slippery slope...and it is the way of the bully.

Instead, we in the LGBT community, whether religious or not, should be taking the high road. We should fight to defend the rights of people of faith. We are winning our freedom in many ways; we should be the champions of those we disagree with at all times. That does NOT mean allowing inequality before the law. No; before human law equality of civil rights and civil privileges must be paramount.

law. No, before human law equality of civil rights and civil privileges must be paramount.

I know in these times of unrest in Ferguson, Mo., and the beheadings of journalists, women, children, and other innocents in the Middle East by ISIS, this story and this issue are not front-page news. But just because something is not front page news does not mean it must not be addressed. Bullying attitudes lead to no good end. In the end, the bully usually learns this inconvenient truth the hard way when they meet a bigger bully. Instead of acting like spoiled bullies—instead of rushing to use the law to coerce someone who doesn't give us what we want—we should demonstrate true tolerance and defend the Christian (or Jewish, Muslim, etc.) shopkeeper.

In the realm of the private enterprise we in the LGBT community should be on the forefront of the defense of people who disagree with us. Freedom is a two-edged sword that cuts both ways. For us to be truly free, we must ensure those who believe different from us are free.

-Nathanael Miller

8/22/14



Francene Tearpock-Martini

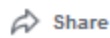
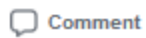


August 22, 2014 · 🌐

This wedding apparel issue in Bloomsburg PA is taking the limelight in the community and Press Enterprise 30 Seconds is filled daily with comments about it. It amazes me how little people know about civil rights. The government of Bloomsburg if they do get involved at all will be in an awkward position. I'm not sure they can even make an ordinance either way. Likely they are consulting with lawyers because a narrow minded store owner chose to discriminate on grounds of religion. The ones who need to be involved, the lesbian couple, want to remain anonymous. I read one of the woman's employer would not be happy with the publicity. Come on now! They do a disservice to the LGBT community by not filing a complaint. If women for example didn't fight for rights of women over the years, we would still be unable to even vote.

👍 4

15 Comments



Article

<https://pafamily.org/2014/08/if-we-stand-idle-state-persecution-comes-to-pa/>

8/25/14

Facebook post

[Equality Pennsylvania](#)

Attention Bloomsburg, PA folks: The Community and Economic Development Committee will be meeting to discuss the nondiscrimination ordinance at 8:00AM on Tues. Aug. 26th on the second floor of Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public, so please go to support the ordinance to update the laws to end discrimination against LGBT people.

<http://ow.ly/ACwxy>

8/27/14

Article

Maureen Gray
August 29, 2014 · Scranton, PA · 🌐

Discrimination divide
Sides debate justice of a Bloom ban on anti-gay bias
By Peter Kendron - Press Enterprise Writer
Published: August 27, 2014

BLOOMSBURG —Face twisted by emotion, Dwayne Heisler told a council committee Tuesday he wanted to know that as a gay man he could go into any business without fear of being kicked out.

But multiple ministers warned that if the town prohibits business owners from putting biblical beliefs into action, they would be discriminating against the faithful.

"This is all about the First Amendment, which says we are free to exercise our religion," said John Kolenda, pastor of Glad Tidings Assembly of God.

After W.W. Bridal Boutique declined to fit a lesbian couple for wedding dresses in July, Heisler asked the town to consider an ordinance to prohibit businesses and landlords from discriminating against homosexuals.

Tuesday, a council committee took up the discussion.

Despite an 8 a.m. start time, a crowd of 50 turned out.

Depending who you asked in a room that included gay-rights advocates, ministers and a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, such an ordinance would either guarantee civil rights or prevent religious liberty.

"As a Christian, it's our responsibility and privilege to tell (others) things they can do to prevent themselves from falling into a place of eternal separation from God," said Eric Miller, lead minister at Bloomsburg Christian Church. He's unrelated to the Millers who own W.W. Bridal. "... It's a matter of love."

Kolenda, pastor for the W.W. Bridal owners, said their decision wasn't an easy one. After discussion, they decided: "This is what we believe. We know there will be consequences, but we believe we have to follow the Scriptures."

'Get fired for it'

But that logic leaves gay and transgender people without the same legal protections as everyone else, said Molly Tack-Hooper, attorney for the ACLU's Pennsylvania chapter.

"Pennsylvania is the only state where a same-sex couple can legally get married, then go to work and get fired for it," Tack-Hooper said.

married, then go to work and get tired for it," Iack-Hooper said.

While her organization often fights for religious freedoms, she pointed out they don't always trump other rights. The state and nation don't allow people to discriminate even if a person has religious objections to serving a certain race or ethnicity.

And Rev. Ann Keeler-Evans of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Northumberland said homosexuals do face discrimination locally. One of her congregants entered a same-sex marriage "and abruptly lost their job."

Businesses 'not churches'

Councilwoman Diane Levan said council wanted to use Tuesday's community and economic development meeting to gather opinions.

In all, 25 people spoke over nearly two hours.

They largely divided into two camps.

Real-estate agency owner Vince Demelfi expressed one viewpoint. Shops "are not churches. They're businesses."

"When I open my business, I'm open to the public. If they have green money, they can buy the product, and I'll sell them the product no matter who they are," he said.

Almedia resident Terry Jacques agreed.

"When you operate a business, you're in the public sphere. You don't get to pick and choose who is good enough to do business with," she said.

But Pastor Kolenda championed the other side.

"When I go out my front door, my Bible goes with me," he said. By telling a business that it can't make faith-based decisions, "you're telling Christians that you can't open certain businesses."

Ron Brobst of Catawissa said while Christians have to express moral objections, "Jesus Christ loves the world unconditionally."

"I just wish he'd sell wedding dresses," Heisler shot back.

'Communism ... Nazis'

Al Luschas, attorney for W.W. Bridal, warned the town that by seeking to regulate discrimination they were venturing into the unknown.

If an ordinance is passed, "you'll force my clients to do something they don't want to do," he said.

'Communism ... Nazis'

Al Luschas, attorney for W.W. Bridal, warned the town that by seeking to regulate discrimination they were venturing into the unknown.

If an ordinance is passed, "you'll force my clients to do something they don't want to do," he said.

Luschas said forcing someone to go against their beliefs is something seen "with Communism, the Nazis or by ISIS in Raqqa or Mosul."

Monica Johnson of Rupert shot back that Luschas was "fearmongering."

"What we're doing is ensuring that all of our citizens can access all of our services," Johnson said.

Room for compromise?

During the meeting, the two sides shared little common ground.

But Tony Beard of East Fifth Street, Bloomsburg, had one suggestion for compromise: Why not pass an ordinance preventing discrimination against homosexuals in employment or housing, while not writing such an expansive rule that it would prevent Christians from following their beliefs?

"No one should be kicked out of their house, or a bar where they're drinking a beer," Beard said. "I think everyone would reject that idea."

Town Solicitor Jack Mihalik said council could include a religious exemption into any ordinance it might pass. Members would have to decide how far-reaching that exception would be.

Resident Karen Cotter believes there's "an understanding that needs to be created" between the two sides.

"If LGBT and religious folks could get together and talk, it may go a long way toward resolving this issue," said Cotter.

Taking a toll

The monthlong debate has taken a toll on those at its center.

Heisler said his husband and partner of 13 years is worried about their safety in their rural Catawissa home given the number of online threats they've received.

And Heisler said he's been the subject of discrimination in town. Heisler said one day a car pulled up to him on Main Street, and the driver yelled: "Fag!"

Meanwhile, Kolenda said the Millers at W.W. Bridal have received death threats on their voice mail.

on their voice mail.

Sue Jackson of Espy said both of those experiences are unacceptable.

"We have to let people know that this kind of hatred toward people based on the positions they take is not tolerated in Bloomsburg," she said.

Contact Peter Kendron at 570-387-1234, ext. 1312, or at peter.kendron@pressenterprise.net. Follow him on Twitter at:



TWITTER.COM

Peter Kendron (PEKendron) on Twitter

The latest from Peter Kendron (@PEKendron). Bloomsburg reporter for...

2

1 Comment

9/4/14

Article

<https://www.opposingviews.com/category/pennsylvania-bridal-boutique-owners-deny-service-lesbians-receive-threats>

9/13/14

Article

<http://www.wfmj.com/story/26237857/pa-shop-no-wedding-gowns-for-lesbian-couple>

9/12/14

Motion alarm went off

9/14/14

Facebook post

 **Dwayne Heisler**
September 14, 2014 · 🌐

The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA, I proudly wear your "Thorn" as a badge of honor. The community knows from your own stories that discrimination is alive and well and not made up "theoretical victims" or phantoms as you state in today's paper - "Even the lesbians supposedly denied service by a bridal shop remain phantoms."

Yes - you have papers to sell. Thanks for showing everyone the disservice you offer to actual facts. You are right, Bloomsburg and all of Columbia County is a wonderful community. This is why such fear and hatred will not be accepted here.

Here is what our paper printed today for all those who have canceled their subscriptions...

THORN: Dwayne Heisler is up and down Main Street, proclaiming the gospel of victimhood.

But where are the victims?

He wants Bloomsburg to enact an ordinance outlawing all kinds of discrimination, especially against homosexuals, and he tells everyone who will listen that he could be thrown out of any restaurant in town because of his sexual orientation.

This may be true, in theory. But has it happened? And shouldn't Town Council, before voting on an ordinance, insist that actual victims of discrimination, not theoretical victims, come forward with testimony? Even the lesbians supposedly denied service by a bridal shop remain phantoms.

Meanwhile, Heisler is tarring every business in town with a broad brush so that he can claim a political victory by winning passage of a symbolic anti-discrimination measure.

However, to achieve that, he has to ignore or at least downplay the possibility that Bloomsburg — although certainly not perfect — is also not the evil, bigoted, homophobic place he's making it out to be.

9/17/14

FACEBOOK POST

 **Dwayne Heisler**
September 17, 2014 · 🌐

Sign the petition to protect all people from discrimination.

If you believe that ALL citizens of Bloomsburg deserve equal protection under the law when it comes to their jobs, their homes, and their ability to shop and use service in our community, urge the Town of Bloomsburg to truly welcome everyone and pass the ordinance by clicking on the link below...

<http://bit.ly/BloomsburgEquality>



9/22/14

WKOK interview Dwayne Heisler start 4:00 minute mark

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKH-LWDVCDs>

9/24/14

Article


<https://www.hrc.org/resources/10-facts-about-the-family-research-council>

9/2/14

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2014/09/02/lesbian-bridezillas-town-debates-ban-on-shop-owners-right-to-refuse-business/>


9/30/14

Facebook:




 **Dwayne Heisler** shared an event to Columbia County PA Democrats's timeline.
September 24, 2014 · Bloomsburg, PA · 🌐

Please sign up - Lights for Equality & Fairness...
<https://www.facebook.com/events/341645702661854/>

Also we have over 500 petition signatures so far in support of the ordinance to help make Bloomsburg a community where everyone is welcomed...
<http://bit.ly/BloomsburgEquality>



SUN, SEP 28, 2014
Lights for Equality & Fairness
Columbia County Court House - Bloomsburg, PA
121 people went

 Like  Comment 

The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA
 September 30, 2014 · 🌐

Like Page ***

There's another discussion on an anti-discrimination ordinance in Bloomsburg this morning. Follow along with the discussion here.



PRESENTERPRISEONLINE.COM
Follow along with town council's anti-discrimination ordinance discussion

2 🌟 9 Comments

Like Comment Share

10/1/14

Article

<http://bloomutoday.com/discussion-on-antidiscrimination-ordinance-p2210-1.htm>

10/2/14

Article

<http://bloomutoday.com/protesters-in-bloomsburg-on-ordinance-proposal-p2195-1.htm>

10/6/14

Vince DeMelfi ▶ Columbia County PA Democrats
 October 6, 2014 · 🌐

If we didn't have the Civil Rights Act of 1964, I wonder how many of those who oppose the anti-discrimination Ordinance being considered by Bloomsburg Town Council, would have this sign in their windows on "religious grounds."



MSNBC.COM
1 in 10 still support not serving blacks
 One in ten Americans believe small business owners should be free to...

10/9/2014

Employees wrote letter to town urging them to not pass an ordinance

10/14/14

Equality Pennsylvania ✓
October 29, 2014 · 🌐

Bravo Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania on making significant progress with the nondiscrimination work in town council this morning!



BLOOMTODAY.COM
Discussion on Anti-discrimination Ordinance
On Tuesday, the Bloomsburg Town Council opened the floor to local...

👍 Brian Sims and 53 others 1 Comment 6 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

10/28/14

Facebook post

The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA 👍 Like Page ⋮

October 28, 2014 · 🌐

The town rejoins the debate about whether it needs an anti-discrimination ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation this morning. You can get updates here.



PRESENTERPRISEONLINE.COM
Follow discrimination ordinance debate live
BLOOMSBURG — For the past two months, the town Community and Economic Development Committee has heard from supporters and...

👍 3 1 Comment

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

 **The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA** Like Page ***
 October 28, 2014 · 🌐

Town councilman: Don't 'pass the buck' on gay discrimination

PRESENTERPRISEONLINE.COM
Bloom committee recommends anti-discrimination ordinance

👍 10 5 Comments 1 Share

Like Comment Share ⋮

10/29/14

Facebook post

 **Kristin Bayer** Like Page ***
 October 29, 2014 · 🌐

A council committee says Bloomsburg needs to draw up a law protecting gays from discrimination in town.

PRESENTERPRISEONLINE.COM
Bloom committee recommends anti-discrimination ordinance
 BLOOMSBURG — A council committee says Bloomsburg needs a law protecting gays from discrimination in town. A resolution to ask the...

Like Comment Share ⋮



Dwayne Heisler is with Adrienne Sage Mael and 2 others.

October 29, 2014 · 🌐

There will be a special meeting advertised in the newspaper and on the town website for this meeting which is open to the public. Once again, letters to the Bloomsburg Mayor and members of the town council in support of the ordinance and resolution are needed. We also need letters to the editor and appearance in the 30 seconds column showing support for this courageous move. Please continue to gather signature for our petition.

<http://bloomsburgpa.org/government/town-council/>

<http://bit.ly/BloomsburgEquality>

Please contact me if you need any help. With your active support we can show the entire state that Bloomsburg values every once for who they are. This is a big step for the community we love.



Press Enterprise/Bloomsburg
BLOOMSBURG COUNCILMAN BILL KREISHER speaks during a public meeting Tuesday morning. Seated with him are fellow council members **Eric Bower** and **Carey Howell**. **HEISLER** displays 800 petitions in favor of an anti-discrimination ordinance during a public meeting Tuesday evening. The committee voted in support of it after an ordinance.



UND COMMITTEE CHAIRSWOMAN DIANE LEVIAN, left, speaks at a public meeting Tuesday evening. Other committee members include **Eric Bower** and **Carey Howell**.

👍 17

11 Comments 4 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

11/1/14

 **Lgbtqa Resource Center- Bloomsburg University** November 1, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ***

Pictures from the Press Enterprise Coverage committee meeting in regard to LGBTQA inclusive ordinance and resolution for the town of Bloomsburg. Lets hope the full Town Council understands the need for equality and votes in favor of including LGBTQA protections for housing, employment, and public accommodations. We will post on this page as soon as we find out when and where full Town Council meeting will be.



BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY STUDENT DAVENA TAYLOR addresses the committee. She said the fact someone could be evicted from an apartment for being gay was "almost as bad as someone saying I couldn't live there because I was black." Sitting with her are **Matthew Barcus**, left, and **Timothy Oleksiak**. Oleksiak said there were consequences for failing to act. "The presence of an ordinance enshrines discrimination ..."

BLOOMSBURG COUNCILMAN BILL KREIDER speaks during meeting Tuesday morning. Seated with him are fellow members Eric Bower, center, and Carey Howell.

BLOOMSBURG COUNCILMAN BILL KREIDER speaks during meeting Tuesday morning. Seated with him are fellow members Eric Bower, center, and Carey Howell.

11/3/14

 **Equality Central PA** November 3, 2014 · 🌐 Like Page ***

Please check out an event happening on Thursday Evening, for Equality in Williamsport with two very energetic speakers. Meeting at New Covenant United Church of Christ at 202 East Third Street at 7 pm Thursday Nov 6th.

On the agenda:

- an update on the Bloomsburg bridal salon story by Dwayne Heisler
- a report on Lycoming College students' rally in support of LGBT youth, planned for the anniversary of the canceled production of Spamalot in South Williamsport
- planning for visits to local legislators to urge them to support non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.
- discussion of municipal ordinance campaigns in Williamsport and South Williamsport

👍 3 2 Shares

Like Comment Share ⋮

11/10/14

Facebook post

Dwayne Heisler
November 10, 2014 · 🌐

...

Town Council meeting tonight 7pm. The minutes from the Community Development Committee will be submitted to the full council which includes the passing of two motions...

- 1) Draft a resolution as a call to action by our state and federal legislators to end LGBT discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation.
- 2) Authorize the town solicitor to draft an LGBT anti-discrimination ordinance to be presented for a vote of the full town council.

There was consensus to have a full council meeting in December at the fire hall solely for the ordinance which would be advertised and announced in the paper and on the website.

Also on the agenda for tonight, Craig Young is a citizen to be heard from Bloomsburg University's LGBTQA Commission regarding the ordinance.

Please share this post and come support equality & fairness in Bloomsburg at tonight's meeting.

👍 14

5 Comments 21 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

11/11/14

ARTICLE



Francene Tearpock-Martini

November 11, 2014 · 🌐

Bloom mayor cuts off discrimination talk

About 70 crowd meeting to discuss possible ban on anti-gay bias

By Peter Kendron - Press Enterprise Writer - Published: November 11, 2014

BLOOMSBURG — A crowd of 70 filled council chambers and adjacent hallways Monday night, hoping to continue the debate about a proposal to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

But Mayor Sandy Davis turned them away. At this point, she said, the council must limit citizens' input so it can handle the regular business of running the town.

A special meeting is being planned for 6 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall to hear from all sides for however long that takes.

But that left Bloomsburg resident Craig Young upset Monday.

Young is an associate professor at Bloomsburg University and head of the school's LGBTQA Commission. He wanted to express his group's opinion that an ordinance is needed to forbid sexual orientation being a factor in decisions on housing, employment or access to a public business. Last Friday, a secretary at Town Hall had told him he could do that Monday.

"But now I'm being told that I can't," Young said. "We have not been heard from on this subject."

Also present were a number of ministers, including John Kolenda, pastor to the Miller family, which runs W.W. Bridal Shoppe. The store ignited this debate by refusing to make gowns for a same-sex marriage, citing their Christian beliefs.

Other pro-ordinance supporters, including Dwayne Heisler, also sat through the meeting.

Hours of talk

But Davis said council's agenda for Monday night included three ordinance changes, two land development plan approvals, and dozens of housekeeping items.

There have been two hours-long committee meetings featuring comments by those both for and against new rules.

Before last night's meeting, Councilwoman Sylvia Costa said council has been inundated with comments, an inch-thick stack of letters.

"And there's not two sides," Mayor Davis said. "There's multiple opinions."

Lots on agenda, no comment

But it's not the only thing on council's agenda.

But it's not the only thing on council's agenda.

Monday night, members voted to clean up a zoning ordinance that covers the old Bloomsburg Mills property. It will now allow townhouse-style housing to be built and permit multiple other uses of the land.

Council also extended the reach of the town's amusement tax, which charges 8 percent on any admission in town, to include previously exempt pursuits: dancing, roller skating, bowling, swimming, even a beer pong tournament.

And council borrowed \$400,000 to help pay for the brick repair done earlier this year at Town Hall, along with work underway at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

There were no public comments on any of those motions.

Out of ordinary

The decision to limit the topics allowed for comments was unusual.

As Heisler noted, citizens traditionally have been able to comment on whatever they want at council meetings.

But Mayor Davis pointed out that Monday night, people were spilling out into the hall, as they had in previous committee meetings. She said it was fairer to hear from all sides at a larger venue at the special meeting Dec. 15.

There will be only two items on the agenda that night.

The first will be a vote on whether town council should send a resolution to the state legislature asking it to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. That would have no local enforcement power.

It will also include a discussion on whether council wants its lawyer to draw up a local ordinance to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, along with multiple other forms of bias.

Ralph Schumacher, who had arrived at the meeting a few minutes late and had to wait in the hall, Bible under arm, said he had hoped to speak Monday night as well.

Rare agreement

"I think both sides went home disappointed," he said. "This is such an important issue, I think they should take comments whenever they can."

On that, Heisler agreed with Schumacher. Not everyone can make 8 a.m. committee meetings, he said.

Heisler said he put out word that the ordinance may come up Monday night after Young appeared on the agenda, and more than 50 people turned out to support him. "I'm glad we have so many people who want the town to make the right choice," he said.

Contact Peter Kendron at 570-387-1234, ext. 1312, or at peter.kendron@

11/17/14

Article

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/11/17/lgbt-married-and-fired.html>

11/26/14



Todd Mahaffey

November 26, 2014 · 🌐

...

".....In the wake of legalized homosexual marriage, a number of discrimination cases have put Christians in the wedding industry through difficult trials. These often involve defending against plaintiffs who are backed by the wealthy American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which annually raises over \$100 million.

These Christians—whose only crime was to refuse to do business with homosexuals, explaining it was against their Christian faith—faced having to pay attorney fees, court fees and, in some cases, fines. Ultimately, a number were forced out of business.

Cases in Oregon and Colorado have put Christian-owned bakeries out of business for refusing to bake wedding cakes for same-sex couples. In Idaho, a pastor was threatened with jail time if he refused to marry gay couples. In New York, owners of a barn reception hall were ordered by a court to host gay weddings or face fines.

In Bloomsburg, Pa., an anonymous lesbian couple has taken bridal shop owners to court because the women were refused service. Now the town is under pressure from pro-homosexual groups such as the ADL and the anti-Christian ACLU and is currently considering a town ordinance that will force Christians to provide services to same-sex unions.

During the trial in Pennsylvania, members of the homosexual community attacked the bridal storeowners, threatening them with death and sexual assault. On several occasions, the storeowners said they had to call the police to have homosexual couples removed who were kissing out on the doorstep of their business.

It isn't hard to see who the real "haters" and "bigots" are in these situations.

America's founders didn't fight the Crown and gain independence so that minority groups could claim victim status, then use it to steamroll over the freedoms of the people who still hold true to the Bill of Rights and Christian values.


If America continues to let its rights go and forget traditions, then this country will surely be lost forever.....Tarah Beth

👍 5

2 Comments 1 Share

➦ Share

12/4/14



Town of Bloomsburg
December 4, 2014 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ***

The Town Council of the Town of Bloomsburg will be holding a Special Council Meeting at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall located at 911 Market Street (maximum admittance is 300 people) on Monday, December 15th beginning promptly at 8:00 p.m. to:


1. Review a proposed Anti-Discrimination Resolution
2. Discuss the possibility of having our solicitor draft an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance
3. Hear from Town citizens (as defined in the "Dec 15th Special Town Council Meeting Procedures" document link below) regarding the proposed Resolution and possible Ordinance creation

***If you are interested in speaking at the December 15, 2014 Special Council Meeting please click on the procedures link below:

[Dec 15th Special Town Council Meeting Procedures](#)

(All speakers MUST adhere to these procedures and fill out the "Request to Address Town Council Form" enclosed. All forms must be returned to the Town Administrator by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2014)

<http://bloomsburgpa.org/.../december-15th-special-town-counc.../>



👤 1 4 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️



Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia



County shared a photo.

December 4, 2014 · 🌐

Please sign up to speak if you qualify and contact me!



Town of Bloomsburg

👍 Like Page

December 4, 2014 · 🌐

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<http://bloomsburgpa.org/.../december-15th-special-town-counc.../>

👍 Like

💬 Comment


➦ Share



<https://www.lezpop.it/usa-si-rifiuta-di-vendere-abiti-da-sposa-a-coppia-lesbica-e-scoppiano-le-polemiche/>

12/10/14

Facebook post



Dwayne Heisler
December 10, 2014 · 🌐

WKOK Sunrise with producer Sara Bartlett WED 12/10/14 7AM

7:10am: Dwayne Heisler, Bloomsburg businessman, human rights advocate and community organizer, on the upcoming Bloomsburg Town Council meeting and the call for testimony/comment. Bloomsburg is considering a non-discrimination ordinance and Dwayne will tell us the forward thinking advocates who are welcome to address council and call for positive change in Bloomsburg. He will call 1-800-795-9565 at 7:08am. Some additional details below. We'll also ask about the community unrest nationwide lately.

~Mark

Mark Lawrence, Program Director
Newsradio 1070 WKOK
P.O.Box 1070 WKOK
Sunbury, PA 17801
(mobile) 570-490-7475
(office) 570-286-5838
mlawrence@wkok.com

Dwayne Heisler, Catawissa resident, owner Remit Corporation (collection agency), Columbia County and Penna. Democratic State Committee Member, We met Dwayne several weeks ago when Bloomsburg was the site of a community rally, calling attention discrimination against the LGBT community, and any form of discrimination. At the time, The Town of Bloomsburg, was considering enacting an anti-discrimination law that would bar individuals and businesses in the town from withholding goods, services or professional consideration—purely because of race, gender, sexual orientation or nationality. The Town is ready to consider the ordinance, and Mr. Heisler is interested in making sure all interested parties know, how and when to give council input. Below is his instruction:

Most of you have been covering the ordinance – there are special rules set forth for the press to cover the meeting if you plan to attend.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2014 UNITED FOR EQUALITY & FAIRNESS RALLY
BLOOMSBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 15TH, 2014, 4PM 119 MARKET ST, BLOOMSBURG PA

Contact: Dwayne Heisler Cell: 570-317-6214 Email:
DwayneHeisler@gmail.com.

As the holidays approach, show your love by supporting equality and fairness in our beautiful town of Bloomsburg. On December 15th at 4:00pm, please join others in your community at the Rally for Equality and Fairness to be held at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall. Then join us at 5:30pm for the Town Council meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance for protecting people from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Seating will be limited.

Pennsylvania allows same-sex civil marriage, with over 1000 rights and benefits which protect these families and their children. However, there are currently no state or federal laws protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from getting fired from their jobs, evicted from their homes, or turned away from businesses because of who they are. This means that a couple could be married on Saturday and fired for being gay on Monday, all within the law. The proposed ordinance would help ensure that all citizens of Bloomsburg have equal access to public services and protections in their jobs and housing. We should follow the Golden Rule and treat all of our neighbors the way we would want to be treated. Please join us on the 15th at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall to learn, voice your opinion, or just show support by attending. More than 72% of Pennsylvanians support equal protections under the law for gay and transgender people. Your supportive presence will show Town Council that most people in Bloomsburg also want to do the right thing for our neighbors.

Deadline for Speaking signup - Wednesday, Dec. 10th 4pm

12/11/14



Occuppy Williamsport

December 11, 2014 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ...

Even if you don't live in the Town of Bloomsburg, you can send a letter of support for LGBT non-discrimination to wlowthert@bloomsburgpa.org by 3pm this Friday. Be sure to mention if you've visited or shopped there and tell them what a great model community they can be for our whole region and the whole state. On Monday evening, the Town Council meets to decide the fate of the ordinance, and we'll be rallying downtown before going into the meeting.

BLOOMSBURGPA.ORG

bloomsburgpa.org

👍 1

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



12/12/14

Jacksonville Coalition for Equality

December 12, 2014 · 🌐

[Like Page](#) ***

The Town Council of Bloomsburg Pennsylvania will be considering a non-discrimination ordinance that would add protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression on Monday.

WKOK.INFO

non-discrimination ordinance : Newsradio 1070 WKOK

BLOOMSBURG – About 300 people are expected to attend Monday's...

👍 5

Like

Comment

Share

12/14/14



Denny Rohrbaugh

December 14, 2014 · @

...

Evidence: Watching The State Capitol

On January 20th of the new year, Tom Wolf will be inaugurated as PA's 47th governor. Supporters of his campaign included special interests hostile to pro-family, pro-life values. With a new governor comes new cabinet secretaries and policy people who will have great influence over what regulations and laws get promoted, ignored or even reversed.

Wolf just appointed Mary Isenhour to be his Secretary of Legislative Affairs (his point person lobbying the legislature). Isenhour chairs "EqualityPA PAC," a gay rights group that advocates for special legal status for sexual orientation/gender identity in discrimination laws, genderless bathrooms, hate crimes laws, and ideological school bullying based upon anti-Christian policies. All threaten rights of conscience and religious freedom.

Contrast this appointment with Gov. Corbett's Secretary of Legislative Affairs, former Rep. Katie True, who previously led the House Pro-Life Caucus when serving as a state representative from Lancaster County.

Religious Liberty News: Meadville and Bloomsburg

Across Pennsylvania, LGBT activists (most often from outside the communities in question) are trying to force municipal councils to consider ordinances that would grant special status based on sexual orientation and "gender identity." The result of such laws is to compel, under threat of citations, fines, and sometimes even imprisonment, religious believers to affirm relationships against their conscience. There are cases around the country, such as Barronelle Stutzman's story in Washington State, where laws like this have driven conscientious business owners out of business!

On this front, we do have some good news to report: In Meadville, home of Allegheny College near Erie, consideration of a sexual orientation/"gender identity" proposal was ended by the city council with no action taken. So, for now, the issue is off the table here. We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation there. But, don't hold your breath!

In another college town in the state, Bloomsburg, the town council is considering an ordinance proposed by another out-of-town political activist in response to a Christian bridal shop owner declining to supply two wedding gowns for a same-sex wedding. On Monday, December 15, there will be a special meeting of the town council (Bloomsburg is the only "town" in Pennsylvania) to take public comment on the proposal (so far). Expect more news on this matter soon and expect outside influence in the form of protests....probably financed with Wolf's personal wealth!

I already have spoken to my state representative (about Kane's lawlessness concerning the states firearms laws being uniform) and he tells me there is little they can do! They tried under Corbett without success! So, now all bets are off... emboldened by the election and drunk with power as Wolf and his red comrades apply the heavy hand of Leftist Rule and consolidate power and advance and increase and intensify their attacks upon the People, our constitution and personal freedom and liberty. These things are all just the beginning of major threats to the wellbeing of Pennsylvanian's, is tip of iceberg and will get geometrically worse before it gets better!

Just when you believe you have these nanny state busybody authoritarians pushed back...they rise up again just like the zombie apocalypse! (which is ironic because they were elected by the actual dead or by the dead thinking in Philadelphia) They will make everyone BUT their elite leftist well connected moneyed interest's buddies lives miserable! In other words, the common people be damned!

People, as I said before, we are going to be in for the fight of our lives!



12/15/14

Members of local churches met at shop to have prayer time for meeting


Special hearing for ordinance

Dwayne Heisler speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjvDheCFbt0>

<http://wnep.com/2014/12/15/no-anti-discrimination-ordinance-for-gay-lesbian-community-in-bloomsburg/>


Facebook post

 **Brian Sims** shared an event — in 📍 Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. ...
December 16, 2014 · 🌐

Remember that bridal shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania that discriminated against the lesbian couple planning their wedding?!? Well tonight the Bloomsburg Town Council is finally set to decide on the fate of an LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination ordinance in town and YOU CAN HELP BY SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT!


I'd hoped to head to Bloom for this tonight but I'm just not able to and so I'm asking that YOU GO and support basic fairness. Dwayne Heisler has organized the "United for Equality & Fairness Rally" in the lead up to the Council Meeting so there'll be plenty of opportunities to use your voice and show solidarity and support.

Do the right thing, Bloomsburg Town Council! #Alleyesonyou
<https://www.facebook.com/events/821730644544937/?ref=4>



MON, DEC 15, 2014

United for Equality & Fairness Rally
Bloomsburg Fire Hall · Bloomsburg, PA

 Mark visited this place



Alison Duncan Hirsch

...

December 15, 2014 · 🌐

The Bloomsburg Town Council will hear from citizens tonight on the proposed non-discrimination ordinance. There will be a rally at 4pm today before the meeting. PLEASE BE THERE - AND BRING FRIENDS!! COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE, AND COOKIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AS A FUNDRAISER AND T-SHIRTS WILL BE SOLD. DETAILS ON POSTER BELOW.


AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING TONIGHT, SUPPORTERS WILL GATHER AT PHILLIPS EMPORIUM / CLOAK AND DRAGON (10-12 E. MAIN ST.).

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING EQUALITY IN BLOOMSBURG!



Town council voted down the ordinance.

12/16/14



Dwayne Heisler

December 16, 2014 · 🌐

...

Treer

Bloomsburg Town Council
December 15th Special Meeting

Bloomsburg is an amazing community. In 1982, I moved to Bloomsburg as a college freshman with less than \$200 in my wallet with a goal of putting myself through school. I fell in love with the town and I decided to stay. The welcoming people in this community helped me, over the past 32 years, to become who I am today.

If there was a doubt about what a friendly, caring, and open community we've built, the recent production of "Our Town Bloomsburg" has laid that doubt to rest. At the last Bloomsburg Town Council meeting, all in attendance agreed with our mayor's comment that she was "proud of this production". Rightfully so, Bloomsburg enjoys and benefits from an impressive reputation.

The decision before us will have a direct impact on the integrity and cultural fiber of Bloomsburg not only to the local citizens but to the region and state. What kind of community is Bloomsburg? What do we want Bloomsburg to be? Is Bloomsburg a town where you want to live, work, shop and go out to eat or is it a place where you're not quite sure you will always be accepted? What if someone told you, "No you can't live here, No you can't shop here, No you can't work here because of who you are?" What if you were told, "Just go someplace else"? Would you want to go back to Bloomsburg?

This ordinance ensures all people have the freedom to seek the opportunity to earn a living, provide for themselves and their families, and put a roof over their heads without being discriminated against because of who they are. It protects the rights of Christians regardless of sexual identity. It protects disabled people, people of color, and the elderly. This ordinance simply draws a moral line that we are committed to treating people with dignity and equality.

The refusals in Bloomsburg to provide services and deny housing because of who someone loves, makes this a Bloomsburg problem. We have the responsibility as a community to declare that all forms of discrimination are unacceptable in "Our Town Bloomsburg". It's one thing that gay and transgender people were left out "before", but it's another thing to "decide" to leave us out "now". Bloomsburg has the responsibility to correct it tonight!

The opposition to the Equality & Fairness ordinance will try to scare you with litigation concerns.

What we've learned from the 34 municipalities who have passed an ordinance is that they don't get sued. In fact, people are surprised Bloomsburg doesn't already have this ordinance. The first equality ordinance in PA was passed back in 1982, the very year I became a member of this community. In

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already have this ordinance. The first equality ordinance in PA was passed back in 1982, the very year I became a member of this community. In Allentown, Pennsylvania's third largest city, there has not been a single claim of LGBT discrimination since the inception of their ordinance in 2002. In fact the leadership of this vibrant community felt so impassioned about equality that the Honorable Mayor Ed Pawlowski wanted to address this audience tonight. The town of Pittston's ordinance, spearheaded by their downtown business manager, was passed just last year as part of a whole package to revitalize Pittston as a vibrant, open and welcoming community.

The Philadelphia, Greater Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh Chambers of Commerce all agree with Senators Casey and Toomey saying they support LGBT non-discrimination and a public business being open to the whole public is good business.

Discrimination is wrong. In the past four months there have been countless discussions, letters to the editor, 30 seconds comments, religious sermons, organizational meetings, social media postings, radio & TV broadcasts, national publications, letters to the town council, petitions, and meetings with both the Comm D and Town Council. Everyone agrees that firing someone, evicting them from a house, or refusing services by a business open to the public just because of who they are - is discrimination. Opponents of the ordinance are asking permission to discriminate based upon personal religious beliefs or a fear of litigation costs or by trying to shift responsibility for what has happened in our community to the state or federal government. They are asking permission to do something wrong to hardworking citizens who are our friends, neighbors, family and coworkers.

If you believe that as a gay man I do not deserve the same rights as everyone else in this community, you are, in essence, removing me and every LGBT person in this room from this fire hall. If you vote against this ordinance or just pass the buck to the State saying "Bloomsburg does not have the courage to protect its citizens but you should", you are devaluing every LGBT person as a member of this community.

I believe "Our Town Bloomsburg", the Bloomsburg Town Council and the Mayor of Bloomsburg will have the courage to do the right thing by supporting all of its citizens as full citizens and vote for both the ordinance and the resolution.

Dwayne J. Heisler.



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Family Council Pennsylvania Family Council
December 16, 2014 · 🌐

Laws against tolerance create a new target for discrimination against those who exercise their religious liberty or personal freedom – and often it's a steep price to pay.

Why today's town council meeting in Bloomsburg is so important:
<http://pafamily.org/.../this-is-why-events-in-bloomsburg-are.../>
#ReligiousFreedom



👍 5 1 Comment 5 Shares
👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

Article

<http://bloomtoday.com/no-antidiscrimination-ordinance-for-gay-lesbian-community-in-bloomsburg-p2250-1.htm#.VJAqIMNQjDc.facebook>

<http://equalitypa.org/forward-progress-in-bloomsburg-campaign-for-fairness-continues/>

12/17/14

Maureen Gray
December 17, 2014 · Scranton, PA · 🌐

In case you haven't heard, the town of Bloomsburg shot down consideration of a nondiscrimination ordinance for LGBT people. We are still analyzing and evaluating the situation. One thing is clear- VOLUNTEER today with any team across the state. We can't let this happen at the state level!

👍 3
➦ Share



Lgbtqa Resource Center- Bloomsburg University
December 17, 2014 · 🌐

Like Page ***

Unfortunately the Bloomsburg Town Council did not move forward with a nondiscrimination ordinance covering sexual orientation and gender identity. The fight is long and hard but we must continue to fight for full equality under the law regardless of race, ethnicity, faith, ability status, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veterans status, class, etc.



BLOOMUTODAY.COM

No Anti-Discrimination Ordinance For Gay, Lesbian Community in Bloomsburg

2

1 Share

Like Comment Share



Equality Pennsylvania ✓
December 17, 2014 · 🌐

UPDATE: Bloomsburg town council passed a resolution asking for the state to take action on discrimination, but unfortunately they voted not to proceed on an ordinance.



EQUALITYPA.ORG

Forward progress in Bloomsburg, Campaign for fairness continues

Thanks to everyone who attended the rally and town hall meeting last night to support a nondiscrimination ordinance in Bloomsburg....

13

2 Shares

Like Comment Share



Eric Bower, Politician

December 17, 2014 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ***

A Town Divided Must Heal

The Bloomsburg Town Council has made their decision to not pass a Non-Discrimination ordinance Monday night. Although it may seem that hope is lost for the equality of all citizens of Bloomsburg, we need to continue working on bringing this community together and not tearing it further apart.

While I supported the drafting on the Non-Discrimination ordinance, I knew the chances of it passing were slim. I also tried to respect the opinions of the Mayor and other council members knowing fully we still have a town to run and need to work together no matter what the decision was. I was disappointed by some of the arguments and statements. They must be respected; they are not mine and can be questioned by our citizens in this community in further discussions.

Prior to the meeting, I also made the decision to meet and greet people from both sides of the argument. I enjoyed talking with all of you and thank you for your respect and opinions. I was moved by the numerous speakers for and against the ordinance. The ordinance was voted down but a resolution was later approved by Town Council. I was especially moved by a young woman's brave statement of her experiences in high school. She also said after the meeting, that this topic motivated her, to submit voter registration forms and participate in the next election. This is someone who most adults should follow as an example.

Instead of hiding behind the scenes and making misinformed statements; I ask you to participate in the process. Come to a Town Council meeting, see how the town is run in action, and ask important questions. Without active participation in our meetings and the political process, your voices are not heard until after a decision is made. Instead of being "For or against" something....do your research. Ask someone from the opposite side how they feel, the impact on them, and learn from that. I have learned a great deal from that way, will continue to talk to all sides of the issues, and facing our town now and in the future.

I also know that the fight for equality in Bloomsburg, throughout our state and country will continue. This is not the end and only the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

I would like to end this statement with a quote from the late Harvey Milk, former city supervisor and openly gay politician from San Francisco.

"Because it's not about personal gain, not about ego, not about power... it's about the "us's" out there. Not only gays, but the Blacks, the Asians, the disabled, the seniors, the us's. Without hope, the us's give up - I know you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. So you, and you, and you... You gotta give em' hope... you gotta give em' hope."

"Because it's not about personal gain, not about ego, not about power... it's about the "us's" out there. Not only gays, but the Blacks, the Asians, the disabled, the seniors, the us's. Without hope, the us's give up - I know you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. So you, and you, and you... You gotta give em' hope... you gotta give em' hope."

I ask everyone to remember that, talk to your neighbors, fellow business owners, and start a conversation there. I look forward to the continued conversation.

Eric Bower
Councilman
Town of Bloomsburg
ebower@bloomsburgpa.org


105

49 Comments 19 Shares

12/18/14

Ran Whipple from Bloomsburg Theater came in to advise that he talked to both lesbian couples and knew we were kind and respectful to them, but he advised us he would do anything he can to get the ordinance passed and put us out of business.

12/20/14

 **Columbia County Bread & Granola** ▸ Like Page ***


Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County
December 21, 2014 · Bloomsburg, PA · 🌐


Hi Dwayne,
I'd like to design a decal that we could affix to the cafe window that designated our storefront as... equality safe...? All welcome...? Something that could become, perhaps, a town specific symbol of Bloomsburg businesses supporting orientation equality to, in effect, counter the misleading claim that Chamber of Commerce membership were unanimously opposed to the ordinance. Anyway, I would like to get your input (pro or con) on this idea before I proceed.
Thanks,
Doug
CCB&G / Bakers Guild Cafe

1 1 Comment

Like Comment Share

Oldest ▾

 **Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County**
Hi Doug. There are several being considered right now. I'll invite you to the group and you can be a part of the discussion. Send a friend request from your personal facebook account.
Like · Reply · 3y · Edited

Write a comment... 



Dwayne Heisler

December 20, 2014 · 🌐

...

Two days after the town council voted against a non-discrimination ordinance (by one vote), the following response was printed in the local newspaper...

"I'm replying to Mr. Chris DeFrain. Mr. DeFrain, as far as your lifestyle, if you want to live that lifestyle, by all means go ahead and live it. It's immoral. It's rotten. It's decayed. It's ungodly. It's filthy, unnatural, even inhuman. People who live this lifestyle act like a bunch of animals or even worse. We have religious liberties under the Constitution and our Bill of Rights. We don't have to serve you as a homosexual or lesbian or anyone else as a homosexual or lesbian if we choose not to. It's up to us to live by our religion and belief in God."

Chris DeFrain submitted a letter to the editor stating that he is a gay man and that the community is asking for a non-discrimination ordinance so we can have the same rights as everyone else.

This is just one example of what has become common in our community. Sadly Bloomsburg has not only lost its designation as "a place for no hate" from the Anti-Defamation League, it has become a place for hate.

Here's the link to the petition that says all citizens of Bloomsburg deserve equal protection under the law when it comes to their jobs, their homes, and their ability to shop and use services in our community.

<http://bit.ly/BloomsburgEquality>

Here's how you can contact the Mayor and the three council members who believe that you do not deserve equal rights based upon who you love and who you are.

Mayor - Sandy Davis – sdavis@bloomsburgpa.org

Vice President - W. Carey Howell - chowell@bloomsburgpa.org

Councilwoman Sylvia Costa – sylviac@ptd.net

Councilman Frederick Trump – abtrt@verizon.net

Here's how you can respond directly to the Press Enterprise Editor and to the 30-seconds column where the hate was printed.

<http://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/categories/30-seconds>

Jim Sachetti, Editor jim.sachetti@pressenterprise.net

Please like and share this post. Thank you for taking a stand for equality and fairness.





Sam Deetz ▸ Equality: Our Name, Our Goal



December 20, 2014 · 🌐

Pennsylvanians Notice / Update:

As you may have already heard, on Monday night the Bloomsburg Town Council turned down a proposed non-discrimination ordinance in spite of widespread public support for it within the town. This was a disappointment, but at least the Council did vote for a resolution urging state and federal legislative bodies to take action on this.

Thank you for your continued support for fairness and equality. This is a temporary setback, and Keystone Progress Education Fund will continue to work with Equality Non-Discrimination (END) and Equality PA toward the goal of a non-discrimination ordinance in Bloomsburg and other Central PA communities.

If you haven't yet signed the Bloomsburg petition, you can still do so here: <http://act.keystoneprogress.org/go/235...>

If you'd like to see a non-discrimination ordinance in your own community, please email or call me, and I'll be glad to work with you on making it happen.



DOCS.GOOGLE.COM

Online Petition

I WANT BLOOMSBURG TO PROTECT ALL PEOPLE FROM DISCRIMINATION. I believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people should be treated fairly in our community, just

12/30/14

Radio program Faith under Fire interview.

1/19/15

Visited Family Research Council State of Family Address

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRLAK1MSLKQ>

<http://www.freetobelieve.com/victoria-and-tom-miller>



Susquehanna University College Democrats

Like Page ***

January 27, 2015 · 🌐

The Pennsylvania Progressive Summit convenes Feb. 6 & 7 in Harrisburg. This year, Cecile Richards of Planned Parenthood and Sen. Bernie Sanders will offer keynote addresses. There will be panels on organizing, including one on local efforts to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance in Bloomsburg and defeat a proposed tire-burner in White Deer Township. <http://www.paproggressivesummit.net>



Alison Duncan Hirsch

...

January 28, 2015 · 🌐

Today, Equality PA officially launched its Nationwide Week of Action: #DiscriminationExists to end discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. This week, Equality PA will be joined by business, faith and community leaders, all committed to ending persistent discrimination against LGBT people in our state.

Despite the passage of marriage equality and some city ordinances, nearly 70 percent of LGBT Pennsylvanians remain unprotected from discrimination in their homes, workplaces and communities. From Scranton, to Harrisburg, to Pittsburgh, our week of events will serve as a big reminder that Pennsylvania is past due to update its non-discrimination law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Let's start the week, though, with one little reminder about LGBT discrimination from Dave Kube and his husband Mark Middlebrook of Bloomsburg, PA:

Dave and Mark

"I moved to Bloomsburg last August from Illinois with my husband, Mark. Moving so far away was an exciting and sometimes challenging experience. However, we were less overwhelmed with the move and more overwhelmed with how welcomed we would be by our neighbors and co-workers. Moving across the country while trying to find a place to live was increasingly stressful because we knew we were moving to a place where we were not protected. On multiple occasions, we found ourselves having to explain our family when searching for a place to live in town. Without any legal protection, this put us in an extremely vulnerable position in which a landlord could simply refuse us housing or evict us for no other reason than the fact that we are married to one another.

Moving forward, our goal is to buy a house over the summer and settle down in the area. One of the biggest questions we have asked ourselves is what community we will decide to call home. When Bloomsburg voted down an ordinance to protect gay and transgender people from discrimination, it sent the message that we are not worthy of dignity or security in our home and employment.

All people, including those of us who are gay or transgender, need an equal opportunity to secure a decent job, find adequate housing and maintain a sense of dignity. These are things that we all value. Ending discrimination is about ending the possibility of being legally denied these most basic assurances."

Little reminders like this can make a big difference. Dave and Mark's story is one of hundreds just like it in Pennsylvania. Leave your little reminder here by sharing your story with us today. Be a part of our campaign for fairness! Help us end discrimination this year!

Thanks for all you do,

Ted Martin
Executive Director
Equality PA
P.S. Don't forget to join our online discussion by using #DiscriminationExists and visiting DiscriminationExists.org.

4/27/15



Dwayne Heisler ▸ **Columbia County PA Democrats**



April 27, 2015 · Bloomsburg, PA · 🌐

The Political Initiative for the Equality Non-Discrimination (END) Campaign needs volunteers for Primary Day, May 19th! We need poll greeters, poll watchers and GOTV callers. If you want to help make non-discrimination a reality in Bloomsburg - you need to volunteer. Join us for Equality at the Polls...

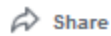
<http://vols.pt/9QnHfN>

Oh, there's a party afterwards too at the West End Ale Haus - Bloomsburg! Join the fun for a good cause. All are welcome.



VOLUNTEERSPOT.COM

Please sign up for Equality at the Polls on VolunteerSpot today!



5/17/15

Article



Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County

May 17, 2015 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ***

Anti-discrimination group plans primary voting drive

By Kristin Bayer

Published: May 17, 2015

BLOOMSBURG — A nonpartisan group created to fight discrimination has launched a "Get Out the Vote" initiative ahead of Tuesday's primary.

Such campaigns are uncommon during spring elections, more often cropping up for a presidential contest or a close race in the fall, said Dwayne Heisler, a member of the Equality Non-Discrimination (END) leadership team.

But after a narrow 4-3 vote on an anti-discrimination ordinance here last year, just one new supporter on town council could change the tide if the matter comes back up for a vote.

END is throwing its support behind Diane Levan and Eric Bower, who both voted in favor of the ordinance, and newcomer Jim Huber, who has publicly said he would support the matter.

The group's literature makes no mention of the other Democratic contender Fred Trump, who voted against the measure last year.

"We are only supporting those candidates that are in support of the ordinance," Heisler said. "Fred has been an amazing leader in our community. This isn't against Fred... but it's now time for Bloomsburg to move forward with non-discrimination and we'd like to support those candidates that are for that."

Heisler noted that while Republican Party leaders didn't respond to a request to join END's efforts, "there are a lot of Republicans who are helping us."

The three Democratic candidates who win Tuesday will almost certainly face off against Republicans Joe Martarano and Chuck Wagner in the fall.

END plans to contact the winners on the Republican ticket after the primary, Heisler says.

Poll watchers

For the last month, END volunteers have gone door to door registering voters, and encouraging Bloomsburg University students to secure an absentee ballot.

With the spring session over come primary day, many student voters in town will likely be away, Heisler said. The university's polling place has historically drawn just a handful of voters in primaries — in 2013, only one person cast a ballot, down from three in 2011, said Matthew Repasky of Columbia County Voter Registration and Elections.

On primary day, Heisler said END will have greeters stationed at all four Bloomsburg polling places along with some registered poll watchers. The latter group is permitted to oversee operations inside.

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group is permitted to oversee operations inside.

That helps END, which has about 1,200 people on its mailing list, keep track of voters and start calls in the afternoon to those who haven't yet cast a ballot.

"People get busy in their day-to-day lives. It's a reminder — 'Hey, you still have time to make a difference,'" Heisler said. "I think this election's primary is going to be very close."



2

2 Shares

5/19/2015

Facebook



Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County

Like Page ***

May 19, 2015 · 🌐

Tomorrow - Tuesday, May 19th is the first chance we get to change the makeup of Bloomsburg Town Council. We've been working hard since December 15th to help Bloomsburg stand up against all forms of discrimination. We must follow through and remind people to vote for or write in...


Diane Levan
Eric Bower
Jim Huber

We have volunteers at every poll both greeting and watching so that we can make phone calls to every voter to remind them to vote for Equality & Fairness. You should be very proud of all of your efforts.



5/20/15

[Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County](#)

 **Committee, Columbia County**
May 20, 2015 · 🌐

Retired prof edges out Trump
Early results: Anti-discrimination supporters in running for Bloom council
By Kristin Bayer
Published: May 20, 2015

BLOOMSBURG — A retired Bloomsburg University professor appears to have unseated Councilman Fred Trump, according to unofficial primary results.

"I really didn't think we could pull it off," Democrat Jim Huber said by phone just as the last votes for town council were tallied.

Huber and incumbents Eric Bower and Diane Levan had all expressed public support for anti-discrimination measures in the days leading up to the election, while Trump, who voted against an anti-discrimination ordinance last year, maintained his stance.

But since Trump was an incumbent and listed higher on the Democratic ticket, Huber thought it would be difficult to win the primary.

"In that sense, I'm really surprised and I'm appreciative of all the people who voted for me," Huber said.

Early tallies show the newcomer in second place with 260 votes, or 24.4 percent of total ballots cast Tuesday. "That's pretty good, for the primary anyhow," Huber said.

Trump appeared to have missed getting his name on the November ballot by just 23 votes, early figures showed.

More blanks than Trump votes

Bower, who took nearly 26 percent of the vote, was the top vote-getter on the Democratic side with 276 ballots cast for him.

Levan, who picked up 23.5 percent of total votes with 250 ballots, was in third place.

There were 227 voters who moved to re-elect Trump, or about 21.3 percent of those casting ballots.

But there were more instances — 249 "under votes" — in which voters opted to leave one or more of the three slots on the Democratic ticket blank, unofficial tallies show.

And 52 write-ins have yet to be counted, amounting to about 5 percent of votes cast.

If the unofficial results hold up, Levan, Huber, and Bower will face off against Republicans Joe Martarano and Chuck Wagner in the fall as well as the winner of the Republican write-in vote.

And 52 write-ins have yet to be counted, amounting to about 5 percent of votes cast.

If the unofficial results hold up, Levan, Huber, and Bowerwill face off against Republicans Joe Martarano and Chuck Wagner in the fall as well as the winner of the Republican write-in vote.

There were 125 write-in votes cast in the Republican primary. In the run-up to primary day, Trump had been advertising, asking Republicans to write in his name.

Bower, owner of Bower Media and security manager for the Apartment Store, is finishing his first four-year council term.


Levan, a part-time staffer at PA Treatment and Healing in Montour Township, has served eight years on council.

Trump, a retired court administrator for Columbia and Montour counties, has served four years.





[Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County](#)
[May 20, 2015](#) ·

I am so proud of the END Campaign volunteers and voters in Bloomsburg who advanced all three Democratic candidates which stand up against all forms of discrimination in our community. These three candidates understand the core principles of the Democratic Platform..."At the core of the Democratic Party is the principle that no one should face discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status... We are committed to equal opportunity for all Americans and to making sure that every American is treated equally under the law." from the 2012 Platform of the Democratic Party. I also want to thank all the voters in Columbia County for their trust in me for County Treasurer. I am truly honored by this amazing show of support.

 **Chris DeFrain** May 20, 2015 · 🌐

BLOOMSBURG WINS TODAY!!! Thanks to everyone who voted and worked for the outcome we all deserve!!! I am so proud of [Jim Huber](#), [Diane Drosdick Levan](#), and [Eric Bower, Politician](#) for promoting Equality in Bloomsburg!!! "At the core of the Democratic Party is the principle that no one should face discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status... We are committed to equal opportunity for all Americans and to making sure that every American is treated equally under the law."

👍 43 1 Comment 2 Shares

 Like  Share

6/25/15

 **Nancy Wilson** June 24, 2015 · WordPress · 🌐

This is why I encouraged Bloomsburg to accept the non-discrimination ordinance last year. The government (any government) of the US is not based on religion (any religion) and therefore a religious attitude towards non-acceptance of any race, creed, color or sexual orientation has no basis in our local laws. This is so simple.



YOUREADYGRANDMA.WORDPRESS.COM
Supreme Court Justice Didn't Know Marriage Can't Legally Involve Churches or Religion

6/26/15

Article

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/06/after_gay_marriage_whats_next.html

8/24/15

Dwayne Heisler
August 24, 2015 · Bloomsburg, PA · 🌐

...

So tonight the Bloomsburg Town Council is considering a Fair Housing Resolution. Guess what is missing? It does not contain Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. Tonight would be a good night to go to the town council meeting especially since the town council knows that there has been housing discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

👍 12 15 Comments 7 Shares


Like Comment Share

9/9/15

Article

<https://pafamily.org/2015/09/unfair/>

10/8/2015

 **Dwayne Heisler, Democratic State Committee, Columbia County** Like Page ***
 October 8, 2015 · 🌐

I was one of only 27 people who went to the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce debate for the Bloomsburg Town Council. I asked the question...
 "Do you believe that citizens of Bloomsburg have faced housing and public accommodation discrimination and if so, how do you plan to address it?"
 Here's a summary of the answers in order...

Fred Trump (R) - No, I've not seen it. It's not an issue

Chuck Wagner (R) - No, there is no evidence and if there are issues with housing the landlord association should deal with it.

Eric Bower (D) - Yes and there is a public record and a court record which shows that discrimination is happening in our community. This includes race and gender, not only LGBT. We need to treat everyone equally.

Jim Huber (D) - Yes, there is also discrimination against BU students. We need a non-discrimination ordinance. This can be a positive thing in our community and an economic boost.

Diane Levan (D) - Yes and it's hard to imagine a community that does not have an issue. The council promised to continue work on this and they have not. I have been meeting with communities both with ordinances and without. I have been meeting in Harrisburg about the issue. If I'm elected or not elected I will not let this drop.

Joe Martarano (R) - No and it should be handled on a state level.

What's really interesting is that 2 of those who say there is no discrimination say that this "non-existent discrimination" should be handled by someone else. Fred Trump was adamant about saying there is no discrimination at all. It's almost like they are in some kind of "social closet" when it comes to the issue. I guess all the testimony and meetings and newspaper headlines were all over nothing? This kind of revisionist politicizing is just sad. The other interesting part is that every Democratic candidate is for the equality ordinance and every Republican is against it.

Make a difference this election not only in Bloomsburg but in the whole state by voting! We have 5 judicial candidates on the Democratic ticket who are ALL pro LGBT equality. I have meet them all and I'm familiar with their records. I have asked them the tough questions though the PA Democratic Committee LGBT Caucus.

You can also make a difference locally by signing up to volunteer on Election Day. The links are below. You can also call me to help 570-317-6214.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c49ada72aa7fc1-election2>

11/2/15

Facebook post

[Chris DeFrain](#)

[November 2, 2015](#)

This is it...our final chance to elect pro-LGBT council candidates and a well-qualified Treasurer candidate targeted for his sexual orientation. We need as many people as possible to help, as these races are often decided by a handful of votes. After Nov. 3, it will be too late. Please GIVE 2 HOURS of your time this Tuesday to either greet voters (hand out information to promote pro-equality candidates) or make phone calls (get out the vote). The latter can be done from any location. If you are unavailable, please send others our way. Now is our opportunity to change the make-up of Bloomsburg Town Council and pass the anti-discrimination ordinance. It's also our chance to establish skills and experience, not sexual orientation, as qualifiers for elected office. As members of END, we cannot allow anti-equality officials to remain in office nor bigoted attacks to derail a campaign. Moreover, we need to show current office holders and the press that voters care about LGBT discrimination and want to see equal treatment. SIGN UP TO HELP

- Greeter: contact Dwayne Heisler. There are numerous opportunities, and a serious need in Berwick.
- Caller: contact Vince DeMelfi: vdemelfi@gmail.com. (Calling will occur 3 pm and onward)

VOLUNTEER LAST MINUTE Drop by the Democratic headquarters after 3 pm election day to make calls (cell phone required) or email vdemelfi@gmail.com for a list to call from somewhere else. **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES** Drop by the Democratic headquarters on Monday or Tuesday to see if there are other needs you can fill. Location: 10 E W Main St, Bloomsburg (formerly Cloak and Dragon Bookstore) Hours: Monday 11AM-6:30PM Tuesday 1PM-4PM (although people will be in and out all day)

11/21/15

Facebook post

Vince DeMelfi
November 21, 2015 ·

Will the Mayor [Sandy Davis](#), and the 3 Council members [Sylvia Costa](#), [Frederick Trump](#), and [Carey Howell](#) who voted AGAINST a non-discrimination Ordinance for Bloomsburg saying that it should be enacted at the STATE level, SIGN this petition?

JOIN BRIAN AND DEMAND A PENNSYLVANIA NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

SIGN THE PETITION

ACT.MYNGP.COM

Add your name if you support equal rights for all Pennsylvanians

[Sylvia Costa](#) and 5 others · 8 Comments · 1 Share



Clay Blanche

January 21, 2015 · 🌐

...

In the audience, were four American families who have seen their religious liberty attacked in recent times.

Among them were the Hahn family, who operate Conestoga Wood Specialties, a cabinet-making business in Pennsylvania. When the federal government ordered the Hahns, under an Obamacare regulation, to provide coverage for abortion-inducing drugs and devices in their employee health-insurance plan—or pay \$95,000 per day in fines—they sued the administration. When the Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 that the administration could not enforce the same regulation against Hobby Lobby, a lower court issued an injunction preventing the administration from enforcing it against the Hahns.

Barth Bracy of Connecticut and his family also attended the "State of the Family Address." Bracy, who is the head of Rhode Island Right to Life, lives in next-door Connecticut. When Connecticut's new Obamacare exchange offered no health insurance plan that did not cover elective abortions, he sued. "Thankfully, in its second year, Connecticut offered a prolife plan," Perkins said in his address. "The Bracys have withdrawn their suit, but they know the battle is far from over."

Aaron and Melissa Klein of Oregon also attended the event. They own the "Sweet Cakes by Melissa" bakery.

"When the Kleins politely declined to make a wedding cake for two women seeking to get married under a federal court ruling that struck down Oregon's pro-marriage referendum, the women filed a complaint under Oregon labor law," said Perkins. "The Oregon Bureau of Labor fined the Kleins \$150,000, a sum that will bankrupt them and their five small children. In the state of Oregon's view, the Kleins need to be 'rehabilitated' from their religious views on the nature of marriage. Needless to say, government re-education regimes are not the American way."

Also in attendance was Victoria Miller, who owns W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pa. She "faced media scorn when she declined to provide wedding dresses for a same-sex ceremony," Perkins said. "I am pleased to report that last month the Bloomsburg town council decided against drafting an ordinance that would have compelled businesses like Victoria's to service an event it cannot morally support."


Perkins argued that respect for religious freedom is central to, and essential for the preservation of, American freedom.

"A government able to bankrupt people for standing by their beliefs, on marriage or any other matter of conscience, is a government of unbridled power and a threat to everyone's freedom," he said.

Perkins called on Americans to rally around a number of causes the Family Research Council believes will start moving the country back in the right direction.

[See More](#)

4/10/16



 **Andrew Reisinger** April 10, 2016 · 🌐



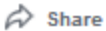
A while back in my town there was a big controversy over a local "bridal" shop that denied service to a gay (I believe lesbian) couple. They cited religious reasons and, of course, there was big blow-back. It even got national coverage at one point. This controversy led to an effort to impose an anti-discrimination ordinance in Bloomsburg.

While this was still an on-going issue, it came time for my Senior prom. It seemed to shock a lot of people when, after I spent several occasions defending the store's right to choose who they do business with, I purposefully did not give them my business, even though they would have been the cheapest option for me. I paid an extra 40 or so dollars for a tuxedo at another place of business.

When asked why by family and friends, I told them I would not be patronizing that store again if that's how they were going to treat their customers. I caught a lot of flack for this from some of my family, who told me I was stupid, etc. While at the exact same time I had managed, purposefully so, to really piss off a few bleeding hearts regarding the anti-discrimination ordinance when I argued my opposition to it.

What put me in this unique position you ask? How could I think and act in ways that seem to contradict each other? If you're asking this, then I must tell you that such a contradiction only exists in your twisted, distorted view of morality. I acted the way I did for one reason and one reason only, and that is the principle of non-violence. I have resolved to act on this, the only true moral North, until the day I die. So then, what is your resolution?

  38 60 Comments 2 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share

10/29/16

Facebook post

[Dwayne Heisler](#) is with [Kara Walsh](#) and [62 others](#).

[October 29, 2016](#) · [Catawissa, PA](#) ·

Two years ago our town Bloomsburg decided to vote against equality for its LGBT citizens by one vote even though the majority of the Bloomsburg community spoke out in support of the ordinance. Each council person who spoke against the ordinance said there should be equality but that it was a Pennsylvania state issue. Although the Bloomsburg town council lacked the courage to act as other communities have across the state, we have a chance to right this wrong by voting. The town council does not have anyone on the ballot this year, but we do have candidates on the ticket who are truly interested in representing all of us. Yes, they do believe we are Stronger Together. This has certainly been and continues to be a crazy election cycle. Sadly our local officials can get loss in the national campaigns even though they have more of an

impact on our daily lives. Please help me support our local candidates by volunteering on election day. If you can help on election day, contact me...DwayneHeisler@gmail.com 570-317-6214 Thank you.

ance

People Photos Videos Pages Places Groups Apps Ev

our local officials can get loss in the national campaigns even though they have more of an impact on our daily lives. Please help me support our local candidates by volunteering on election day.

If you can help on election day, contact me...

DwayneHeisler@gmail.com
570-317-6214

Thank you.

HEISLER displays 800 petitions in favor of an anti-discrimination ordinance during the meeting Tuesday morning. Seated with him are fellow council members, Eric Bower, center, and Carey Howell.

SBURG COUNCILMAN BILL KREISHER speaks during the meeting Tuesday morning. Seated with him are fellow council members, Eric Bower, center, and Carey Howell.

AND COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN DIANE LEVAN, left, in Town Hall on Tuesday morning. Other committee members, Eric Bower and Carey Howell.

COUNCILMAN FRED TRUMP expresses the idea of an ordinance during the meeting Tuesday morning.

43 13 Comments 9 Shares

3/9/17 – 3/24/17

SIGNED CONTRACT WITH MAIN STREET HUB TO CLEAN UP OUR SOCIAL MEDIA.

Our situation was explained to multiple people before signing the contract and they assured us they could help so we signed with them. They later cancel our account due to misalignment of values.

Main Street Hub	Main Street Hub Notice of Immediate Cancellation : March 24, 2017 Dear Victoria, This email is a ...	3/24/2017	Drafts
wwbridal5511	Re: [Main Street Hub] Re: Re: [Main Street Hub] Brand Kit Follow Up for W. W. Bridal Boutique : Atta...	3/18/2017	Sent
Jennifer Beck (Main ...)	[Main Street Hub] Re: Re: [Main Street Hub] Brand Kit Follow Up for W. W. Bridal Boutique : ...	3/17/2017	Drafts
Main Street Hub	[Message received] Re: [Main Street Hub] Brand Kit Follow Up for W. W. Bridal Boutique : ##-...	3/17/2017	Drafts
wwbridal5511	Re: [Main Street Hub] Brand Kit Follow Up for W. W. Bridal Boutique : Hello Graeme, We apologize for ...	3/17/2017	Sent
Main Street Hub	[Main Street Hub] Brand Kit Follow Up for W. W. Bridal Boutique : [Welcome!] Hi, Victoria! I hope ...	3/17/2017	Drafts
Main Street Hub	[Main Street Hub] Brand Kit for W. W. Bridal Boutique : [Welcome!] Hi, Victoria! I'm excited for you t...	3/15/2017	Drafts
Graeme Mullen (Main...)	[Main Street Hub] New Account Manager : ##- Please type your reply above this line ## *Recipient: ...	3/10/2017	Drafts
Brooks Naylor	[Main Street Hub] Our Next Steps : Thanks again for your time today, Victoria! It was great chatting with ...	3/9/2017	Drafts
Main Street Hub	[Main Street Hub] My Contact Info : [Welcome!] [Welcome!] I'm here to help Hello, Victoria! My name is ...	3/9/2017	Drafts

3/24/17

MAIN STREET HUB CANCELED A CONTRACT WITH US

To: wwbridal5511 Details

- W. W. Bridal Boutique Setup Fe...pdf (64 KB)
- W. W. Bridal Boutique Setup Fe...pdf (64 KB)
- image.png (13 KB)

I Hello Victoria,

Thank you for your time this morning. Please allow this email to serve as notice that, effective immediately, Main Street Hub will no longer be able to service your account. This is due to misalignment with our corporate values of inclusion for all groups and lifestyle choices. We will be issuing a credit in the amount of \$348.00 which is inclusive of all fees paid as outlined below. This refund will be applied to the same card we billed and I have attached receipts of those refund transactions for your records.

Inline image 1

You should have the login information for all of your platforms with the exception of Four Square, which I've included here:

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

Best,
Heather

--

LinkedIn.png
Heather Funderburke
 Director of Customer Success
 T: 512.592.4128

March 24, 2017

Dear Victoria,

This email is a notice that your Main Street Hub subscription has been discontinued, effective immediately. You have not been billed.

You may re-subscribe at any time. Simply call us at (888) 900-0920 or log into your account: <https://app.mainstreethub.com/login/doAuth/e181031aa84e92234946084a1351d6fc/>

It has been a privilege to serve you.

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600 Congress Avenue, Suite 1200
Austin, TX 78701
Office: (888) 497-1075
Fax: (512) 597-4467
www.mainstreethub.com

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[Unsubscribe](#)

4/13/17

Facebook post

 **Chris DeFrain** shared a photo. April 2, 2017 · 🌐

Come on Bloomsburg Town Council. Mayor Sandy Davis and Council members Sylvia Costa, Carey Howell, and Fred Trump need to go.



Matt Stehman March 29, 2017 · 🌐 Like Page

At last night's Council meeting, #Royersford became the 10th municipality in Montgomery County, and just the 41st in all of Pennsylvania to pass a nondiscrimina...

4/16/17

 **Chris DeFrain** shared a post to the group: Bloomsburg University Indivisible. April 16, 2017 · 🌐

Here's the slate of Democratic candidates who are for fairness and equality in our community. They need your support for the primary. Please share this post and support them. If you live in the town of Bloomsburg you can vote here in the Primary May 16th. You can vote absentee in person up to two weeks before the election at the courthouse annex building on Main Street. Help Bloomsburg....make a difference. We need just a few students to help us get this slate elected.

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!

VOTE

Jim **GARMAN** ★ *Vince* **DeMELFI**

Bonnie **CRAWFORD** ★ *Toni* **BELL**

TOWN COUNCIL

Dwayne Heisler
April 16, 2017 · 🌐

Here's the slate of Democratic candidates who are for fairness and equality in our community. They need your support for the primary. Please share this post and support them.

  5 4 Comments

5/1/17

Facebook post



Steph Dressler

May 1, 2017 · 🌐

Bloomsburg friends: If you are registered to vote democrat in Bloomsburg (if you voted on campus for the presidential election) please read this.

As some of you may know, a few years ago, members of the Town Council voted against the creation and approval of an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance for the town of Bloomsburg. The idea of the ordinance came about after an employee at WW Bridal in Bloomsburg refused to do business with a lesbian couple. You can read about that here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/.../ww-bridal-boutique-lesbia_n...

This Anti-Discrimination Ordinance would have made it illegal to discriminate against a person regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. It failed to pass with a vote of 4-3, with 2 democrats on the council actually voting against it.

But, alas, there is good news! It is time to vote for a new Town Council! If, like myself, you are going home for the summer, you can vote ABSENTEE in the primary from May 2nd - May 15th. To do this, you have to go to the courthouse in town and cast your ballot in person. I have attached a picture of a PDF explaining how to do this which tells you WHO to vote for as well.

A group of people, including myself, will be going down to the courthouse on May 2nd to vote. If you would like to go with us, please comment and I will tell you when and where we are meeting to walk down.

Please, please SHARE this post spread the word about this important issue! LGBTQ individuals deserve to be treated fairly and equally, and they especially deserve to be protected from discrimination in this town. I hope you join me on the 2nd to vote in people who know what's up.

It's time for a change. Please help get Democrats on the Bloomsburg Town Council who will support an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance to protect the LGBTQ community in our town. It starts with the primaries!

The 2017 Primary Election is Tuesday May 16th. If you are registered to vote in Bloomsburg, but will not be here on the 16th, **YOU MAY CAST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON**. Here's how!

Go to the Columbia County Courthouse Annex:

11 West Main St., Bloomsburg: Enter building, go thru security, go to teller windows on left. Tell the person at the teller window that you would like to vote absentee for the primary because you will be absent from the municipality on May 16th.

Do this Tuesday May 2nd through Friday May 5th or Monday May 8th - Tuesday May 9th 8:00am to 4:30pm

To cast your absentee ballot in person you must fill out:
(1) an application (see next page if you'd like to complete it ahead of time and bring it with you to the Annex)
(2) your ballot at the Courthouse Annex (see suggested picks from Columbia County Democratic Committee below).



Bring a valid ID with you just in case!

Bloomsburg Town Council

Bonnie Crawford
Vince DeMelfi
James Garman
Tara Bell

PA Supreme Court

Dwayne D. Woodruff

PA Superior Court

Deborah Kunselman
Maria McLaughlin
H. Geoffrey Moulton Jr.
Carolyn H. Nichols

PA Commonwealth Court

Todd Eagen
Joe Cogrove

Bloomsburg Mayor

Eric Bower

 **Jennifer Adrienne Johnson** uploaded a file in the group: **Bloomsburg University Indivisible.** May 1, 2017 · 🌐


Democratic primary is May 16th! If you will not be in town, you may vote absentee May 2-9. In particular, we are trying to get Democrats on the Town Council who will support the Anti-Discrimination Ordinance that will protect our LGBTQA community! Attached are instructions for voting! If you have any questions, let me know! Get your friends to vote too! Let's make Bloomsburg town safe and welcoming for ALL!

 **Absentee instructions and application.pdf**
 PDF

👍 6

👍 Like ➦ Share

5/3/17

 **Marissa DeGrandis** May 3, 2017 · 🌐

I'm reaching out to people asking for a little help from anyone who is registered to vote in Bloomsburg! The 2017 Primary Election coming up in after most of us leave for the summer. Our goal is to help get Democrats on the Bloomsburg Town Council that WILL support the LGBTQA community in the town (we're finding that there are democrats running who are OPPOSED to an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance). I want to spread the message and give information for those interested in helping out and casting an absentee ballot in person this week!

All you would need to do is fill out a (quick) application and fill out the ballot at the Courthouse Annex! (I have copies of the application if you would like to print it and fill it out ahead of time!) Message me for more details!!!

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

7/8/17

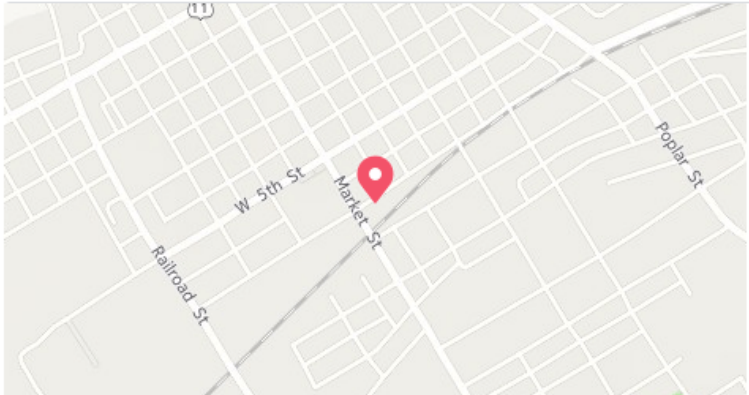
Shannon Kennedy and Julie Ann Samanas came in to look at bridal gowns. We advised them that we were Christians and could not participate in same sex weddings. As soon as they left they posted on facebook that we denied. Within minutes our facebook page was getting hate.



Julie Ann Kennedy is with Shannon Kennedy at **W. W. Bridal Boutique**.

July 8, 2017 · Bloomsburg, PA · 🌐

I'll gladly take my money some where else, when a business won't allow you to try on wedding dresses simply because you're gay 😞 Join me in 2017 #discriminationisnotcool #WWbridalbloomsburg they removed the option to tag in to the shop, WW Bridal.

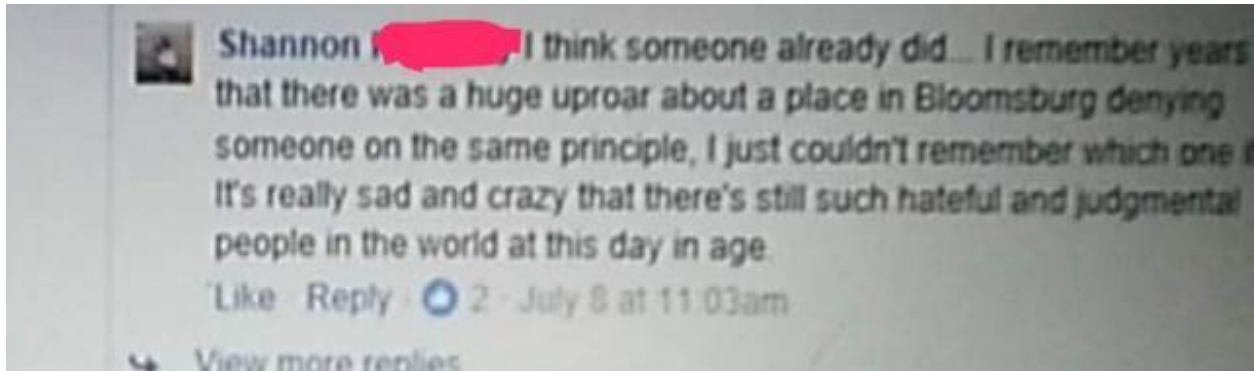


W. W. Bridal Boutique

Bridal Shop · Bloomsburg, PA

Susan Cravens Funk and 8 others have been here

Saved



- That is awful! My dress came from Exclusively You in Bloom. They were fantastic! My mom's dress came from there as well!

Jul 8 · Like · 🍷 3 · Reply · More
- Shannon Kennedy**
We went there first and loved it!

Jul 8 · Like · 🍷 1 · Reply · More
- The owner is THE nicest lady! And they were fantastic with altering my dress and making sure it was everything I wanted!

Jul 8 · Like · 🍷 1 · Reply · More

7/9/17

Facebook post

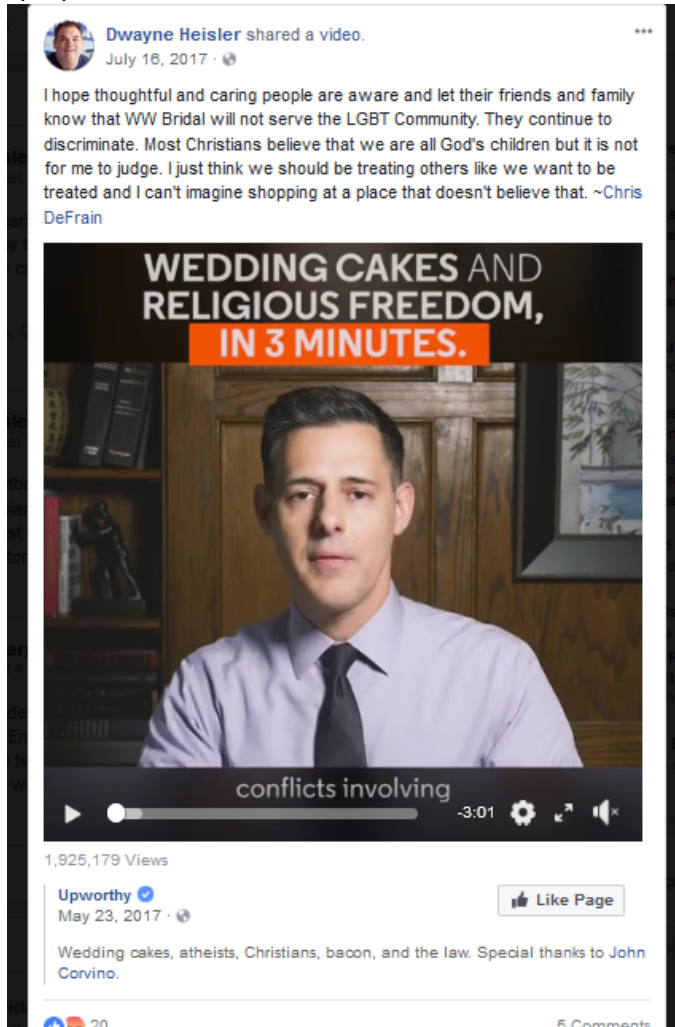


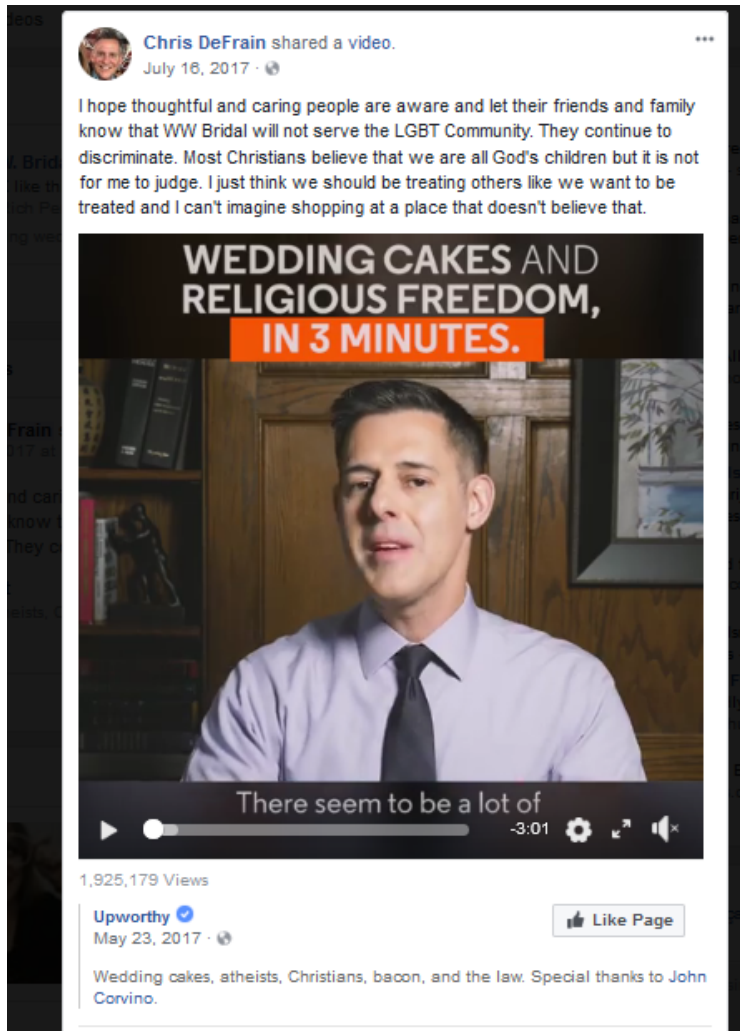
Katrina Blannett Madonia

July 9, 2017 near West Pittston, PA · 🌐

Had to somehow find a way to share this for two of my close friends, [Julie Ann Samanas](#) AND [Shannon Kennedy](#). No one deserves to be discriminated against!! These two special ladies don't deserve this kind of treatment, nobody does. It isn't anyone's damn business who you sleep with or love. Its a shame they were refused service! Asking all my family/friends/acquaintances to avoid shopping at W.W bridal because hate is wrong!

7/16/17





7/19/17

Article

<http://www.epgn.com/news/local/12295-lesbian-couple-turned-away-from-pa-bridal-shop>

7/21/17

**Doors locked due to threat to us and our employees.
Police assure us they will help us.**

Voicemail threat.

https://www.facebook.com/wwbridalboutique/videos/1505287079600578/?hc_ref=ARSYhaIJHTTlpkJ7Msn4o26AzYLSqJnGWv3S7cjNxcixsJ-zdI9BSeu02ISNCOUUu5A



Chris DeFrain shared a post.

July 21, 2017 · 🌐

Discrimination is immoral, even when people confuse it with religious freedom. You have the right to be uncomfortable with who I am and to disapprove of my marriage, but you don't have the right to treat me as a second-class citizen. A business should be open to all.



Shannon Kennedy

July 20, 2017 · 🌐

Julie Ann Samanas



EPGN.COM

Lesbian couple turned away from PA bridal shop

The owner of a Pennsylvania bridal shop recently claimed that her...

👍 Like

🔗 Share



Vince DeMelfi shared a post.

July 21, 2017 · 🌐

And here we go again...

Discrimination rears its ugly head in Bloomsburg again. I have known Shannon Kennedy and her parents for 25 years, and they are great people.

Is this Town Council finally going to stop ALL discrimination in Bloomsburg NOW, or are we going to have to wait until a new Town Council takes office in January?

When Town Council last debated a non-discrimination ordinance for Bloomsburg, it failed by a vote of 3 (in favor) to 4 (opposed). 2 of the 4 who were opposed to a non-discrimination ordinance are on the ballot in November: Carey Howell and Sandy Davis. Bloomsburg, do u think it's time for a change at Town Hall?

If you agree that discrimination has no place in Bloomsburg, I encourage you to vote for Bonnie Shermer Crawford, James Garman, Toni Trumbo Bell, and Vince DeMelfi for Town Council, and Eric Bower for Mayor. Also, please share this post. Thanks!



Shannon Kennedy

July 21, 2017 · 🌐

Julie Ann Samanas



EPGN.COM

Lesbian couple turned away from PA bridal shop

The owner of a Pennsylvania bridal shop recently claimed that her...


👍👎❤️ 23

19 Comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

 **Rally for the God page/Love the mocking offenders** Like Page July 21, 2017

"The owners of W.W. Bridal Boutique reserve the rights afforded to them by the First Amendment of the Constitution to live out our lives according to our faith. 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' We will continue to serve our customers based on the tenets of our faith."

<http://www.epgn.com/.../12295-lesbian-couple-turned-away-from...>




EPGN.COM

Lesbian couple turned away from PA bridal shop

The owner of a Pennsylvania bridal shop recently claimed that her faith...

7/23/17

Facebook post

 **Equality Pennsylvania** is feeling disgusted in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. July 23, 2017

"Pennsylvania continues to lack a statewide LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination law; more than 40 municipalities have adopted their own nondiscrimination measures, though Bloomsburg is not among them. After the 2014 incident at W.W. Bridal, members of the Bloomsburg Town Council proposed asking the town solicitor to draft an LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance, but after a community meeting that drew both support and opposition, voted 4-3 against moving forward with such a measure. The council did send a letter to the state legislature urging it to adopt statewide LGBT protections."



EPGN.COM

Lesbian couple turned away from PA bridal shop

The owner of a Pennsylvania bridal shop recently claimed that her...

Article

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2017/07/bridal-shop-refuses-lesbian-couple-cites-first-amendment/>

7/24/17

Boycott WW Bridal Boutique created

Urging people to call and let us know how they feel. Posting our phone number, address, and email.



Article

<http://www.thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/2017/07/i-don-t-know-if-you-ve-heard-but-we-re-christian-bridal-boutique-accused-of-refusing-same-sex-couple/>


https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pennsylvania-bridal-shop-lesbian-brides_us_5976160ee4b00e4363e11237

facebook post



 **Dave Zimmerman** shared a post — 🤢 feeling icky and embarrassed for my home state. with Jenifer Zimmerman.
July 24, 2017 · 🌐

You just can't reason with that good 'ole Christian hatred.
Now, if your feelings are hurt and you're feeling a little froggy here cause I'm calling out bible thumpers—you wanna leap, come at me bro. Yea though lest you forget, the shop owners specifically said the reason they were singling out this couple and treating them differently than any other customer is because God told them to discriminate. But armed with that... Have at it.

 **Equality Pennsylvania** is 🤢 feeling disgusted in 📍 Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.
July 23, 2017 · 🌐

"Pennsylvania continues to lack a statewide LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination law; more than 40 municipalities have adopted their own nondiscrimination measures, though Bloomsburg is not among them. After the 2014 incident at W.W. Bridal, members of the Bloomsburg Town Council proposed asking the town solicitor to draft an LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance, but after a community meeting that drew both support and opposition, voted 4-3 against moving forward with such a measure. The council did send a letter to the state legislature urging it to adopt statewide LGBT protections."



7/25/17

Anti defamation league sent letter to town urging them to pass an ordinance.

Facebook

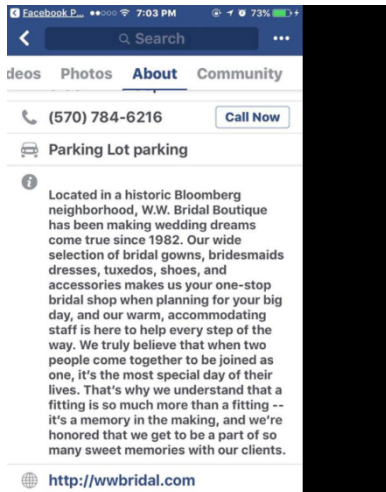
 **Logo** July 25, 2017 · 🌐 Like Page ***

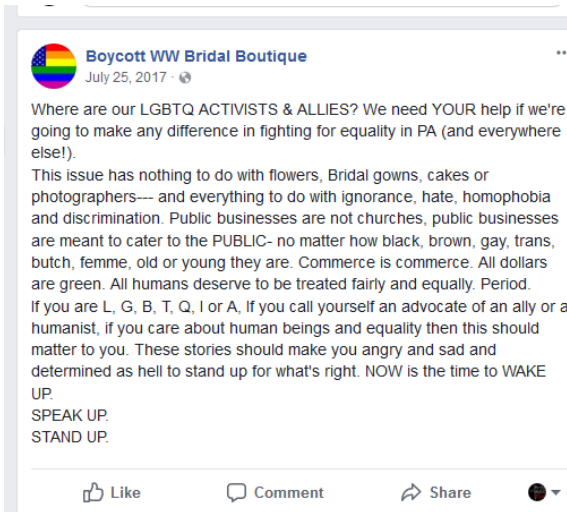
Shannon Kennedy and Julie Ann Samanas were reportedly refused service at W.W. Bridal Boutique.



NEWNOWNEXT.COM

PA Bridal Shop Turns Away Lesbian Couple: "I Don't Know If You've Heard, But We're Christian"





Article

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/sex-couple-rejected-bridal-boutique-fires-back-004124735.html>

Warrior for Christ reached out for help with our page. We made Rich Penkoski an admin of page and he received these posts:





Self-Employed
Lives in Richmond, Indiana

5:02 PM

Although you may have a constitutional right to practice religion, you do not have a constitutional right to hate. I guarantee it you wouldn't call a black man or woman a nig... You are a closet case homosexual, who needs a man in your life. I will assure you this. I know someone waiting right now to out a bullet through your skull bitch. So please by all means, remain on the stupid train, and continue to preach hate, albeit you won't say the nig...word, because your a scared ass white bitch. Someone is going to kill your bitch ass and your family bitch. Mark those words of your Christ bitch



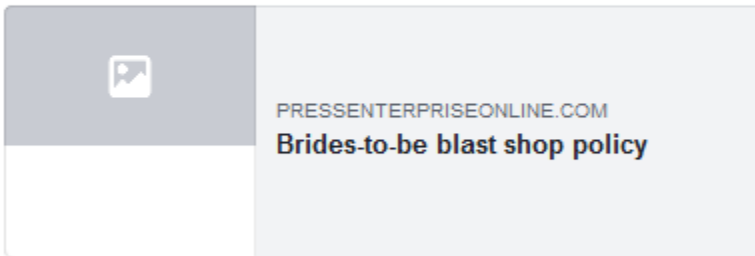
7/26/17



**The Press Enterprise - Serving
Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA**
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

👍 Like Page ***

A Bloomsburg bridal shop is under fire again for turning away a lesbian couple earlier this month. But the Facebook furor is unlikely to spur another push for a local anti-discrimination law this year, officials say.



Vince DeMelfi
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

Looks like the Huffington Post has picked up on the latest instance of discrimination in Bloomsburg. Another black eye for the Town of Bloomsburg.



[About this article](#)

HUFFINGTONPOST.COM | BY CURTIS WONG

This Bridal Shop Is Under Fire (Again) For Turning Away A Lesbian Couple

Boycott WW Bridal Boutique
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

There seems to be some confusion about a business owners rights to deny service.
"No shoes, no shirt, no service"- that is reasonable.
However, denying service to someone because they are gay, black, brown, too fat, too skinny, too ugly, too pretty, too old, or based on military status, or disability, religion or lack thereof-- that is called DISCRIMINATION. See the difference?
I don't care if a business owner worships Jesus, Satan, Allah, cows, cats or trees-- that's their right. But when their "religious beliefs" begin to impose on the rights and liberties of other people, that's where we have an issue. UNLESS YOU ARE A CHURCH, you do DO NOT get to choose who is worthy enough to patronize your establishment.
My equal rights don't take away from anyone else's. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect, EQUALLY. Everyone has a right to walk into a PUBLIC BUSINESS such as W. W. Bridal Boutique, shop, browse, and be treated with respect. Everyone deserves the right to EQUAL access to public accommodations.
@wwbridalboutique, and bigots like them, are using their personal religion as an excuse to discriminate at will. But this premise is false and I'll prove it with simplicity. do they also deny service to women who have had babies out of wedlock, women who eat shellfish, wear mixed fabrics, been previously divorced, been raped, spoken in church, gotten drunk or braided their hair?? All those things are punishable (some by death) in the Bible. But none of those things exclude a person from shopping at WW Bridal Boutique. They just choose to focus on a persons sexual preference. Why does this public business get to choose which "sin" is the one they just can't handle? It's bullshit. It's discrimination. It's a lame excuse at best to try to cover up the underlying hate-bias. If you're going to discriminate according to your religious beliefs, at least be consistent.



Chad Marinkovits
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

Hey Bloomsburg, perhaps it's time to look into voting to pass that anti-LGBTQ discrimination law. If people want to open a public business in PA, then they should be required to serve any and all who seek their services. You want to thump your bible and pick and choose who you serve based on their religion/sex/sexual preference, then establish a private, member-only business where you can properly "vet" the background of your potential members. Then, you can legally discriminate for any reason. Pretty sure PA has it right in the paperwork for obtaining a business license that a public business may not refuse service for any reason when discriminating based on age/sex/religion /sexual orientation. I am never surprised to see this kind of garbage going on in deep-red, culturally ass-backwards areas of the country. But here in PA? Where are the rest of the civilized human beings around here who realize that others have an unalienable right to pursue love, happiness and contentment, no matter their religion or sexual preference?

Oh, and I may not be a practicing member of any religion, but I am quite familiar with the written work these pseudo-Christians use as their guideline to pick and choose what parts of their religion apply to them. I am confident that I act more Christian in my day to day life than far too many of these supposedly "religiously adherent" Christians. I treat all others with a modicum of respect (unless given reason not to), I do not judge others based on any preconceived notions of what I believe, as I accept free will and self-preference to be "God"-given rights. I am only intolerant of the intolerant...the bigoted...the charades.

Oh, and let's see a little about what else that good book says:

James 4:12-- "There is only one lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you - who are you to judge your neighbor?"

John 8:7-- "When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Methinks this boutique should hear from all of the citizens of PA who don't appreciate such openly discriminatory practices from a public business here in our home state. What detriment to their faith could two people celebrating their love for one another cause, regardless of whether they're gay or straight? If we look at divorce rates, we can say pretty definitively that a majority of Christians themselves don't truly believe in the sanctity of the institution of marriage.

Rant over.

<https://www.yahoo.com/.../sex-couple-rejected-bridal-boutique...>

 **Boycott WW Bridal Boutique**
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

There is more than one admin on this page. The comments and ideas of one admin do not necessarily reflect the ideas or attitudes of others.

Also- Please refrain from name-calling. Keep it civil.

Ratings to this page are irrelevant. We are private citizens so ratings don't affect us in any way lol. But with every review you leave, even if it's negative, it spreads the word of Equality and brings more people to the page- so thanks for that, guys 🙌

Sweet dreams, all.

HOPE WILL NEVER BE SILENT.

 -JS

Like Comment Share

9 Chronological

View 1 comment

Write a comment...

 **Boycott WW Bridal Boutique**
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

Also noteworthy, it appears WW Bridal Boutique has deactivated their fb account, so if you'd like to write to them or call with your thoughts, suggestions or support of their devotion to discrimination- their email is:

wwbridal5511@verizon.net

And phone number is:
570-784-6216

Love Is Love
All are Equal

 -JS

Like Comment Share

16 Chronological

2 Shares

 Brian Ososkie Don't forget instagram. http://instagram.com/ww_bridal

INSTAGRAM
W.W. Bridal Boutique (@ww_bridal) • Instagram photos and videos

 **Boycott WW Bridal Boutique**
July 26, 2017 · 🌐

Thanks for inviting your friends to support the boycott of this anti-LGBT business. 125 supporters in 24 hours is a good start! Your calls and messages are having an impact (please keep all your calls and messages appropriate and non-violent. This page does not condone threats or violence of any kind.)

Please keep inviting those friends, activists and allies, and continue spreading the word that LOVE IS LOVE and EQUAL RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS 🙌🙌

-JS

Like Comment Share

14 Chronological

View 1 comment

Write a comment...

Article

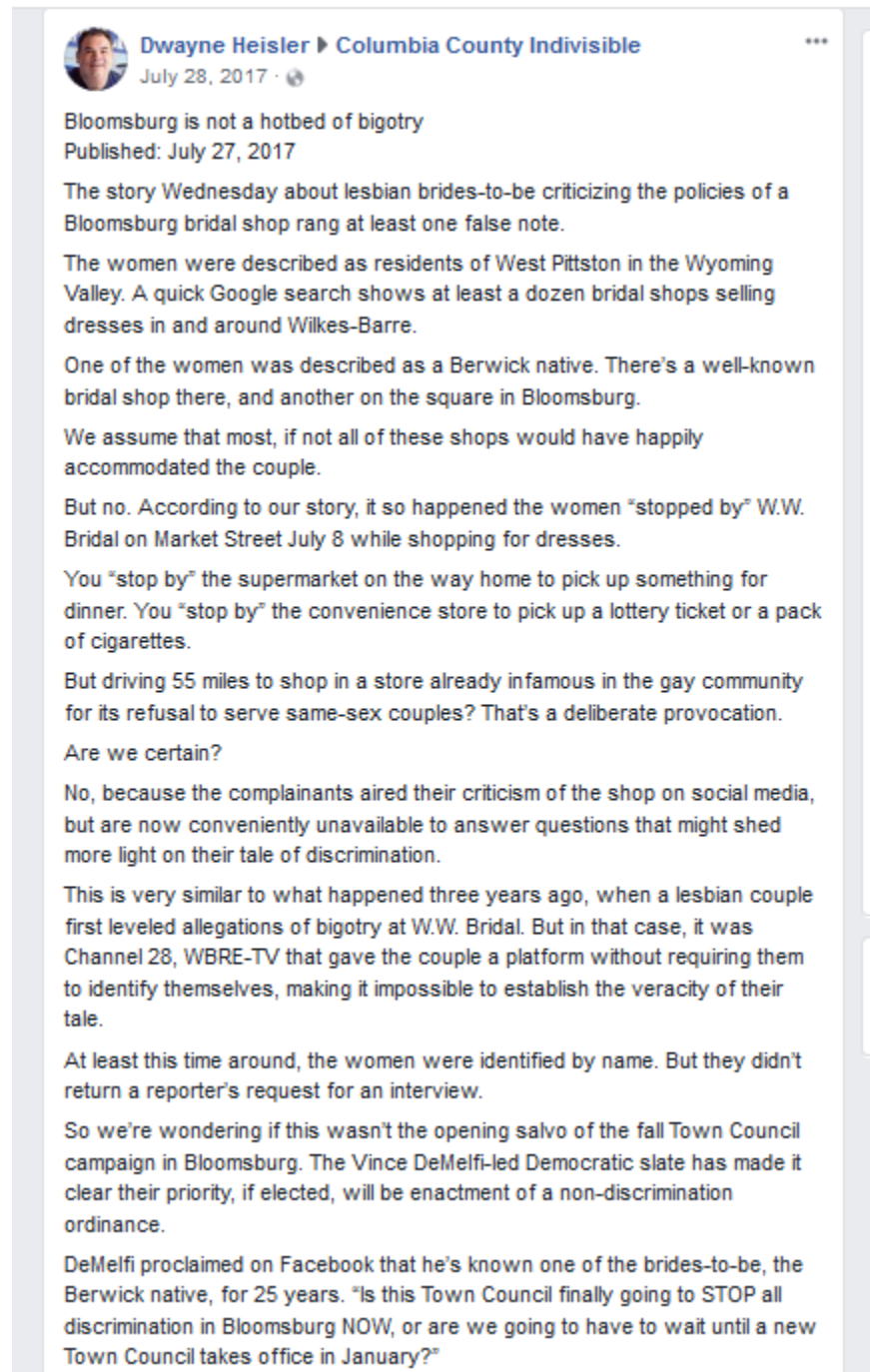
<https://www.attn.com/stories/18502/store-shows-how-discrimination-against-lgbtq-couples-still-thrives-wedding-industry>

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/18968/lesbian-couple-takes-business-elsewhere-after-frank-camp>

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/National-HBCU-event-Penn-lawmakers-clash-conversion-therapy/59892.html>

7/27/17

Press enterprise post article



A screenshot of a Facebook post by Dwayne Heisler, a member of Columbia County Indivisible. The post is dated July 28, 2017, and is public. The text of the post discusses a story from Wednesday about lesbian brides-to-be criticizing a Bloomsburg bridal shop. The author questions the accuracy of the story, noting that a quick Google search shows many bridal shops in the area, and that the women were described as residents of West Pittston in the Wyoming Valley. The author also mentions that one of the women was a Berwick native and that there are well-known bridal shops there. The author suggests that the women likely stopped by a supermarket, a convenience store, or a lottery ticket store on the way home, rather than a bridal shop. The author questions the deliberate provocation of driving 55 miles to a store infamous in the gay community for its refusal to serve same-sex couples. The author notes that the complainants aired their criticism on social media but are now conveniently unavailable to answer questions. The author compares this to a similar incident three years ago where a lesbian couple leveled allegations of bigotry at W.W. Bridal, but in that case, it was Channel 28, WBRE-TV that gave the couple a platform without requiring them to identify themselves. The author notes that at least this time around, the women were identified by name but they didn't return a reporter's request for an interview. The author wonders if this wasn't the opening salvo of the fall Town Council campaign in Bloomsburg, where the Vince DeMelfi-led Democratic slate has made it clear their priority, if elected, will be enactment of a non-discrimination ordinance. The author quotes DeMelfi's Facebook post, where he proclaimed that he's known one of the brides-to-be, the Berwick native, for 25 years and asked if the Town Council is finally going to stop all discrimination in Bloomsburg now, or if they are going to have to wait until a new Town Council takes office in January.

Town Council takes office in January?"

Note his use of the word "finally." It's intended to create the impression that Bloomsburg is a rampant hotbed of anti-gay bigotry.

The evidence?

Two complaints — one anonymous, the other suspiciously timed — against a solitary Bloomsburg business.

As far as we know, homosexuals and their money are welcome at every other shop in town.

Yet DeMelfi feels it necessary to proclaim, "Discrimination rears its ugly head in Bloomsburg again."

There's something "ugly" going on all right: exaggeration for political gain.

...

Now, with all that said, there's something pretty important that has changed between the first ruckus over W.W. Bridal's refusal of a gay couple and the second: In June of 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples and the refusal to recognize those marriages performed in other jurisdictions violates the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the 14th Amendment.

There are people who disagree with this ruling for a variety of reasons, many of them rooted in religious beliefs.

But ours is a nation founded on the principle that we will govern ourselves by laws, not be governed by kings or dictators. This makes respect for the law paramount.

By refusing service to a gay couple contemplating what is now a legal union, W.W. Bridal is disrespecting the law of the land, and, by extension, all law-abiding citizens.

The owners' position seems to be that the word of God eclipses that of any mortal tribunal. We understand and respect that.

But our nation has come to a social and legal consensus — one that includes many people of strong faith — that the owners of a business open to the public should not deny service to prospective customers who look different, who worship differently, or who mate differently.

That consensus fits perfectly with what most of us have been taught about the God of mercy, the God of justice, the God of love.

  3

8 Comments

7/28/17

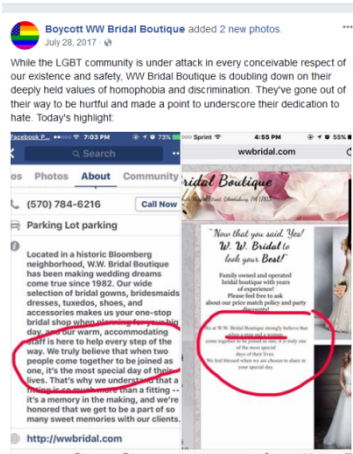
Article

<https://www.opposingviews.com/religion/christian-bridal-shop-denies-lesbian-wedding-dress>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-bridal-shop-closes-doors-to-public-after-receiving-threats-for-denying-lesbian-wedding-dress-193452/>

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/07/28/death-threats-shut-down-bridal-shop-over-refusal-to-serve-lesbian-wedding/>

<https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/owners-of-christian-bridal-shop-close-doors-after-receiving-death-threats.html>



Boycott WW Bridal Boutique July 28, 2017

A couple of things I need to make clear:

Here at Boycott, we do not condone hatred of anyone, which includes religious people and those who wish to practice the religion of their choice. We also do not condone violence or hate speech against these individuals just the same as we expect the same courtesy and respect in return. The reason for creating this page is not because of religion or hatred of religion; it is simply about equality. We want equal treatment from businesses rather than being singled out and treated like second class citizens. The whole "why can't you just go to another shop?" argument is insulting. What happens when we go to another shop and get the same treatment? It is a waste of time and effort.

Boycotting is not discrimination. It is not promoting hate. It is not promoting violence. It is simply a boycott. Just the same as a peaceful protest, we have a reason and a cause, but we are not causing or promoting harm on anyone. Honestly, I don't want to put WW Bridal Boutique out of business - I just want them to change their business practices to exclude discrimination. If the boycott leads to their demise, then that is the lesson they have to learn the hard way - discrimination is a high price to pay.

We do appreciate all of the love and support you have brought to us here at this page, and we are grateful for such love and support. It's never easy having to stand up and defend your own honor or your dignity, but with your support, that is what is being done here. Sure, we're being bombarded by haters, who unfortunately will never understand the concept of why we must do this. We expected this. They are just speed bumps on the road to equality. They won't stop us, and they won't distract us. We will welcome their support, however as all of their traffic to our page has just generated more awareness to others.


Love wins in the end 🏳️💕

~ Jeremy


7/29/17

Article

- <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/07/29/homophobic-wedding-boutique-closed-to-the-public-after-receiving-violent-threats/>
- http://www.newslocker.com/en-us/news/christian-news/bridal-shop-temporarily-closes-doors-over-threats-for-declining-to-assist-lesbian-seeking-wedding-gown/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

 **Oliver's Twist**
July 29, 2017 · 🌐

<http://www.christianheadlines.com>
...owners of W. W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg were asked to provide a wedding dress for Julie Ann Samanas who was marrying her fiancé, Shannon Kennedy.



CHRISTIANHEADLINES.COM
Owners of Christian Bridal Shop Close Doors after Receiving Death Threats

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

7/31/17

Article

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2017/july/threatening-obscenity-laced-voice-mail-shuts-down-christian-bridal-shop>

8/1/17

Article

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/07/31/you-stupid-fin-bigots-bridal-shop-allegedly-threatened-after-not-serving-lesbian-couple>

8/2/17

Wnep news broadcast

<http://wnep.com/2017/08/02/bridal-shop-owners-get-death-threats/>

8/3/17

<http://6abc.com/society/pa-bridal-shop-that-refused-lesbians-getting-threats/2272389/>

Article

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/pennsylvania/articles/2017-08-03/bridal-shop-that-refused-lesbians-says-its-getting-threats>

facebook post

 **Debra Drasher-Dock** August 3, 2017 · 🌐

From WNEP: "43 municipalities in Pennsylvania have an ordinance on discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bloomsburg is not one of them. But some people here think that needs to change. Bloomsburg Town Council discussed making an anti-discrimination ordinance in 2014 but never passed one. Council did not respond to our request for comment as to whether the town will revisit the issue."

According to what I have read regarding municipalities in Pa. that have anti-discrimination ordinances, Lewisburg also doesn't currently have one. I don't know if it has been discussed or currently is on the agenda, but I think we should make sure that our officials are aware that we support an ordinance addressing this, if you agree.

Having said that, I assume that one should contact the borough council members or borough manager?

I do not want to start an avalanche of people calling the borough offices, but I will try to find out the proper avenue to bring attention to this and post when I have additional information.

7 Comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

 **The Alt Standard** August 3, 2017 · 🌐 👍 Like Page

BLOOMSBURG (WNEP) -- The sign outside W.W. Bridal on Market Street in Bloomsburg says open, but the door is locked. Read more...

<https://thealtstandard.com/.../bridal-shop-owners-receive-de.../>



THEALTSTANDARD.COM


Bridal shop owners receive death threats after turning away same-sex couple

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

<https://thealtstandard.com/archives/11928>


<http://triblive.com/state/pennsylvania/12581238-74/bridal-shop-that-refused-lesbians-says-its-getting-threats>

<https://speeddating.tn/wedding-bridal-shop-owners-threatened-after-refusing-lesbians/>

 **What Did You Say?**
August 4, 2017 · 🌐 Like Page ***

Reported By Andrew West | August 3, 2017 URL of the original posting site: Liberalism has once again redefined tolerance in America, this time in a row over a bridal shop in the Keystone State. W.W. Bridal in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania made headlines this week after refusing service to a lesbian couple looking for purchase a wedding gown, citing religious reasons. [388 more words]

<http://whatdidyousay.org/.../tolerant-left-threatening-bridal.../>



WHATDIDYOUSAY.ORG
“Tolerant” Left Threatening Bridal Shop Over Religious Beliefs

 **WNEP-TV** 🌐
August 4, 2017 · 🌐 Like Page ***

TALKBACK: Viewers had quite a bit to say on the topic of the bridal boutique in Bloomsburg that refuses to serve same-sex couples.



WNEP.COM About this article

Talkback 16: Bridal Backlash
Today's edition of Talkback 16 was filled with comments about the bridal...



Barbara J Fort

August 4, 2017 · Shared via AddThis · 🌐

Liberalism has once again redefined tolerance in America, this time in a row over a bridal shop in the Keystone State.

W.W. Bridal in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania made headlines this week after refusing service to a lesbian couple looking for purchase a wedding gown, citing religious reasons. After the couple took to Twitter to complain about their experience, and to seek attention for their inconvenience, "social justice warriors" on the left took up arms against the shop.

"The police chief in Bloomsburg tells the Press Enterprise of Bloomsburg the owners of W. W. Bridal say they've been threatened after telling the couple to shop elsewhere on July 8.

"The lesbian couple took to social media to vent, and their story was widely shared.

Most SJW sitting in Mommy's & Daddy's basement fighting their so called good fight. Most have never had a job and waiting for someone to come beg them to go to work for them and have their every desire met because mommy and daddy have!!! Their opinions go where they belong in file 13 aka know as the trash or garbage can!



CONSTITUTION.COM

"Tolerant" Left Threatening Bridal Shop Over Religious Beliefs

👍 Like

➦ Share

 **Eyewitness News WBRE WYOU**  Like Page 

August 4, 2017 · 

The owners of W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg have been receiving threats after refusing to sell a wedding gown to a same-sex couple. The business has the legal right to deny service to same-sex couples, do you think that should be changed?



   Logan Boucher, Lily Strauch and 127 others 489 Comments 21 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share 

8/11/17

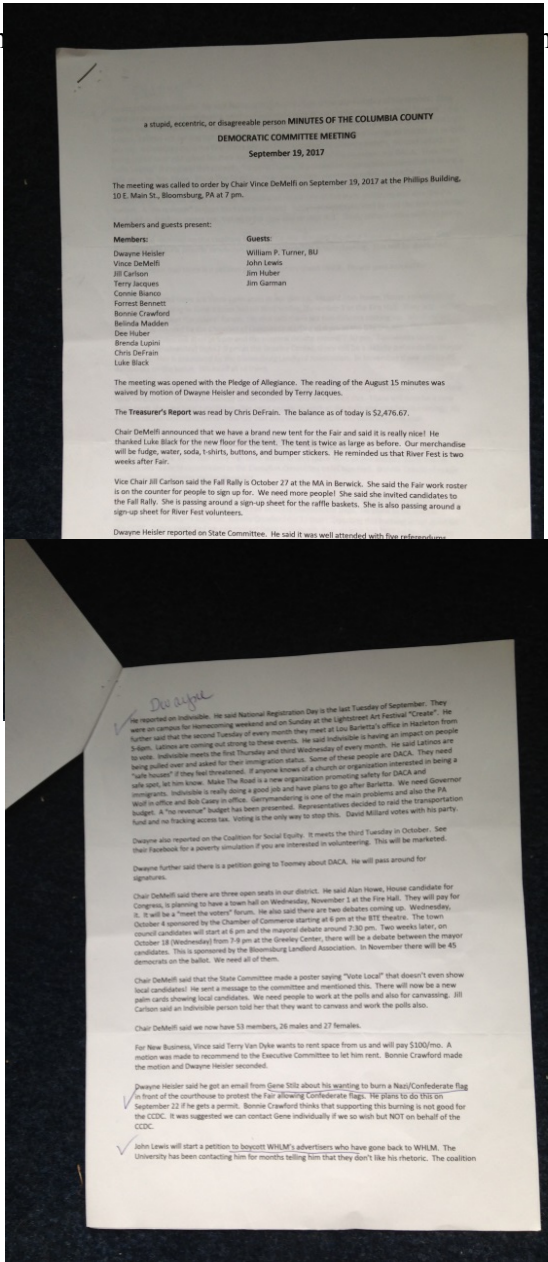
Article

<http://triblive.com/state/pennsylvania/12581238-74/bridal-shop-that-refused-lesbians-says-its-getting-threats>

9/19/17

Dwayne

Democratic meeting



a stupid, eccentric, or disagreeable person MINUTES OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEETING September 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince DeMelfi on September 19, 2017 at the Phillips Building, 10 E. Main St., Bloomsburg, PA at 7 pm.

Members and guests present:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Members: | Guests: |
| Dwayne Heisler | William P. Turner, BU |
| Vince DeMelfi | John Lewis |
| Jill Carlson | Jim Huber |
| Terry Jacques | Jim Garman |
| Conce Bianco | |
| Forrest Bennett | |
| Bonnie Crawford | |
| Bethinda Madsen | |
| Dee Huber | |
| Brenda Lupini | |
| Chris DeFrain | |
| Luke Black | |

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The reading of the August 15 minutes was waived by motion of Dwayne Heisler and seconded by Terry Jacques.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Chris DeFrain. The balance as of today is \$2,476.67.

Chair DeMelfi announced that we have a brand new tent for the Fair and said it is really nice! He thanked Luke Black for the new floor for the tent. The tent is twice as large as before. Our merchandise will be t-shirts, water, soda, 50-cents buttons, and bumper stickers. He reminded us that River Fest is two weeks after Fair.

Vice Chair Jill Carlson said the Fall Rally is October 27 at the MA in Berwick. She said the Fair work roster is on the counter for people to sign up for. We need more people! She said she invited candidates to the Fall Rally. She is passing around a sign-up sheet for the raffle baskets. She is also passing around a sign-up sheet for River Fest volunteers.

Dwayne Heisler reported on State Committee. He said it was well attended with five representatives.

Disagree
He reported on Indivisible. He said National Registration Day is the last Tuesday of September. They were on campus for homecoming weekend and on Sunday at the Lightstreet Art Festival "Creative". He further said that the second Tuesday of every month they meet at Lou Baratta's office in Haddon from 3-6pm. Latinos are coming out strong in these events. He said Indivisible is having an impact on people to vote. Indivisible meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of every month. He said Latinos are being pulled over and asked for their immigration status. Some of those people are DACA. They need a "safe haven" if they feel threatened. If anyone knows of a church or organization interested in being a safe spot, let him know. Make The Road is a new organization promoting safety for DACA and immigrants. Indivisible is really doing a good job and have plans to go after Baratta. We need Governor Wolf in office and Bob Casey in office. Gerrymandering is one of the main problems and also the PA budget. A "no renewal" budget has been presented. Representatives decided to raid the transportation fund and no tracking access law. Voting is the only way to stop this. David Millard votes with his party.

Dwayne also reported on the Coalition for Social Equity. It meets the third Tuesday in October. See their Facebook for a poverty simulation if you are interested in volunteering. This will be marketed.

Dwayne further said there is a petition going to Toomey about DACA. He will pass around for signatures.

Chair DeMelfi said there are three open seats in our district. He said also Howe, House candidate for Congress, is planning to have a town hall on Wednesday, November 1 at the Fire Hall. They will pay for it. It will be a "meet the voters" forum. He also said there are two debates coming up. Wednesday, October 4 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce starting at 6 pm at the BTE theater. The town council candidates will start at 6 pm and the mayoral debate around 7:30 pm. Two weeks later, on October 18 (Wednesday) from 7-8 pm at the Greeley Center, there will be a debate between the mayor candidates. This is sponsored by the Bloomsburg Landlord Association. In November there will be 45 democrats on the ballot. We need all of them.

Chair DeMelfi said that the State Committee made a poster saying "Vote Local" that doesn't even show local candidates! He sent a message to the committee and mentioned this. There will now be a new palm cards showing local candidates. We need people to work at the polls and also for canvassing. Jill Carlson said an indivisible person told her that they want to canvass and work the polls also.


Chair DeMelfi said we now have 53 members, 28 males and 27 females.

For New Business, Vince said Terry Van Dyke wants to rent space from us and will pay \$300/mo. A motion was made to recommend to the Executive Committee to let him rent. Bonnie Crawford made the motion and Dwayne Heisler seconded.

Dwayne Heisler said he got an email from Gene Sills about his wanting to burn a Nazi/Confederate flag in front of the courthouse to protest the 9/11 "attorney" Confederate flag. He plans to do this on September 22 if he gets a permit. Bonnie Crawford thinks that supporting this burning is not good for the CCCC. It was suggested we can contact Gene individually if we so wish but NOT on behalf of the CCCC.

John Lewis will start a petition to boycott WHLM's advertisers who have gone back to WHLM. The University has been contacting him for months telling him that they don't like his rhetoric. The coalition

has mixed feelings about what to do about this considering what WHLM does for the Parade of Lights, the Fair, etc. WHLM's advertising revenue has definitely been affected by the protests.

 Dwayne Heisler said there is another battle coming up with WW Bridal at the beginning of the year. Hopefully it will then be a done deal.

Chair DeMelfi introduced one of our guests, William B. Turner, Jr. Class President representing the BU student body.

A motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2017.

Submitted by:

Connie Bianco, Secretary

9/29/17

Tamie Yusa-Ogawa
September 29, 2017 · 🌐

Boycott W.W. Bridal Boutique. Plenty of other places to patronize!




NOSTRAIGHTNEWS.COM
Bridal Shop Refused to Sell Wedding Dress to Lesbian Bride

👍 2

👍 Like ➦ Share

10/4/17

Hear from the candidates for Bloomsburg Town Council



Candidate Forums

Wednesday, October 4th
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Alvina Krause Theatre

*Sponsored by the
Joint Governmental Affairs Committee of
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce and
The Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau*

The first 90 minutes will be for the candidates for general Council seats. The second 90 minutes will be for the registered mayoral candidates. Topics will include:

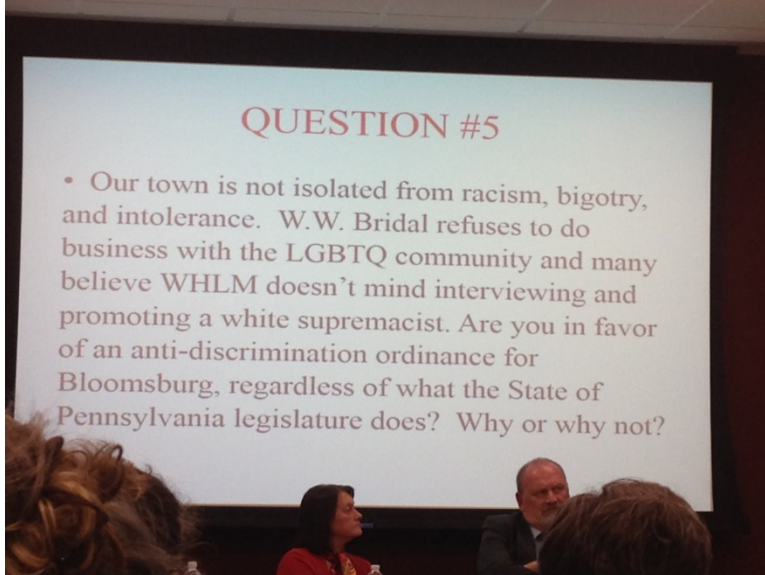
- Bloomsburg's priority issues
- University opportunities
- Encouraging business
- Town resources
- Storm water management
- Audience questions

Wednesday, October 18th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
The Greenly Center

*Sponsored by the
Bloomsburg Area Landlord's Association*

Topics will include:

- Bloomsburg's business climate
- Infrastructure



QUESTION #5

- Our town is not isolated from racism, bigotry, and intolerance. W.W. Bridal refuses to do business with the LGBTQ community and many believe WHLM doesn't mind interviewing and promoting a white supremacist. Are you in favor of an anti-discrimination ordinance for Bloomsburg, regardless of what the State of Pennsylvania legislature does? Why or why not?

10/5/2017

Facebook post

[The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA](#)

[October 20, 2017](#) ·

Carey Howell, a council incumbent, was answering a question about why Bloomsburg passed a “no hate” resolution but still has no local anti-discrimination ordinance when gay activist Dwayne Heisler interrupted and accused Howell of misleading the audience.

10/30/17

YES Heaven Is For Real · October 30, 2017 · 🌐

Many of you may remember our friends at WW Bridal in Bloomsburg PA. They are the wedding dress boutique that were targeted by LGBT in hopes of suing them for not wanting to participate in a gay wedding. Well, the LGBT is at it again and they are leaving them 1 star reviews. I am asking if we could all 5 star review them (honest review) for standing firm on God's word and not backing down in the face of hate and death threats. This is our sister in Christ who needs our help. The LGBT are trying to destroy her business by leaving fake 2 star reviews. Link is below

 **GOOGLE.COM**
ww bridal boutique pennsylvania - Google Search

James Lisa

Like Comment Share

11/12/17

Election day

Town council has enough people voted in to pass an ordinance.

1/25/18

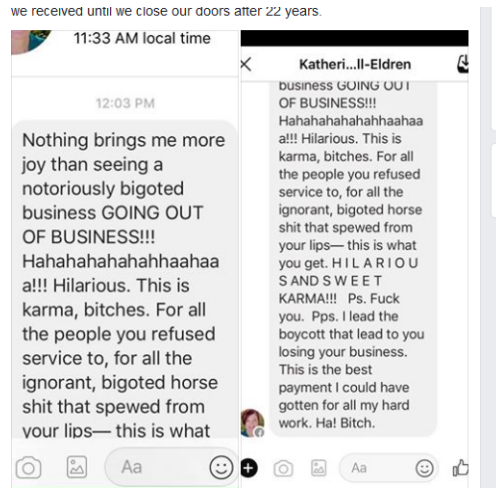
After talking to PA Family about the town council, we decided to close our doors 3/30/18

2/9/18

Announced on facebook that we were closing 3/30/18

3/1/18

Received this message on facebook



3/2/18



<https://afaofpa.org/archives/news-release-homosexual-activists-force-closure-of-bloomsburg-shop/>

<http://billlawrenceonline.com/bullies-shut-bloomsburg-bridal-boutique/>

Facebook post about our closing due to bullying Carla D'addesi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CICc-LP4gGg>

3/4/18

Gave interview for article to Christian post

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-bridal-shop-closes-down-over-fear-of-lgbt-law-after-facing-death-threats-220306/>

3/6/18

Decided to release all of the hateful email, messages and comments to make Christians aware of what was happening to us.

Article

<https://onewsnw.com/culture/2018/03/06/lgbts-force-closure-of-another-christian-business>

<https://christianjournal.net/incidents/breaking-news/local-pennsylvania-bridal-shop-harassed-threatened-lgbt-activists-turning-away-sex-couple/>

3/7/18

Article

https://www.theblaze.com/news/2018/03/07/christian-owned-bridal-shop-that-faced-death-threats-will-close-in-anticipation-of-new-lgbt-law?utm_content=buffer15088&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=theblaze

<https://cnmnewz.com/2018/03/06/bridal-shop-threatened-for-declining-to-assist-with-lesbian-wedding-closing-its-doors/>



 **CNMnewsz.com**
March 7 · 🌐 👍 Like Page ***

Photo Credit: W.W. Bridal Facebook page BLOOMSBURG, Pa. — The Christian owners of a bridal shop in Pennsylvania who have been receiving threats since declining to assist a lesbian with her wedding last July have decided to close their business due to fears of an impending ordinance that would require them to violate their faith, as well as the inability to market themselves in light of false negative reviews. [989 more words]


<https://cnmnewsz.com/.../bridal-shop-threatened-for-declining.../>



CNMNEWSZ.COM
Bridal Shop Threatened for Declining to Assist With Lesbian 'Wedding' Closing Its Doors

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share ⚙️

3/8/18

 **Donald Grewar** ***
March 8 · Newport, United Kingdom · 🌐

A Christian-owned bridal shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania is tired of the death threats.

After three years of public controversy over their refusal to sell wedding dresses to homosexual couples, the W.W. Bridal shop announced on Facebook that they are shutting down. The company has also released the hate emails and voice messages they have received to inform the public of "the bullying we have gone through."

Psalm 37:12,13, and 15 says, "The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken."

👍 Like ➦ Share

Radio interview <https://relevantradio.com/2018/03/drew-mariani-show-mar-6-hour-1/>

article

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/march/threatened-christian-bridal-shop-closes-rather-than-be-forced-to-go-against-our-faith>

<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/gays-bully-christian-bridal-boutique-into-closing>

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/03/08/bridal-shop-shuts-down-in-fear-of-lesbians-buying-their-wedding-dresses/>

<http://sdgln.com/news/2018/03/08/bridal-shop-will-close-they-wont-be-able-legally-deny-lgbt-people>

3/9/18

Article


<https://www.sarahpalin.com/2018/03/09/soros-proud-liberals-bully-bridal-shop-right-business/>

<http://sdgln.com/social/2018/03/09/sdgln-weekly-wrap-march-3-march-9-2018>

<https://townhall.com/notebook/bethbaumann/2018/03/07/christian-owned-bridal-shop-forced-to-close-over-death-threats-potential-new-lgb-n2458677>

Deryok Jackson
March 9 · 🌐

W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania is closing its doors after 22 years, all because of a local ordinance that would prevent private businesses from discriminating against people based on their sexual orientation. The bridal shop is owned by Lisa Boucher, her mother and two sisters, all of which are Christians who do not believe in gay marriage. #Gaystapo



TOWNHALL.COM
Christian-Owned Bridal Shop Forced to Close Over Death Threats, Potential New LGBT Ordinance

Like Comment Share

Conservative America
March 9 · 🌐

Like Page

A dangerous precedent:
"The new ordinance would reportedly ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, and thusly impact the way some companies — specifically Christian companies — may conduct their professional business."



THEBLAZE.COM
Christian-owned bridal shop that faced death threats will close in anticipation of new LGBT law
W.W. Bridal in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, will close its doors March 30 in anticipation of a...

3/10/18

Article

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/bridal-shop-that-refused-couple-will-close-1.2312155>

<http://www.newnownext.com/ww-bridal-boutique-closing-lesbian-weddings/03/2018/>

3/11/18

Article

<https://www.christiandaily.com/article/pennsylvania-christian-bridal-shop-to-close-for-good-after-getting-threats-for-denying-service-to-gay-couple/62215.htm>


3/12/18

Article

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/28474-christian-owned-bridal-shop-closes-under-lgbt-threats>

<http://www.lgbtlife.co.uk/christian-owned-bridal-shop-closes-under-lgbt-threats/>

<http://thejacksonpress.org/?p=80900>

 **The Jackson Press**
March 13 · 🌐 👍 Like Page ***

Written by Michael Tennant The owners of a Pennsylvania bridal shop are closing their business to avoid being forced to provide gowns for same-sex weddings in violation of their Christian faith. W.W. Bridal Boutique of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, announced that it will be closing on March 30, the victim of an intolerant Left that has seen fit to sabotage the 22-year-old business with poor online reviews, threats of physical harm to the store and its owners, and soon an ordinance that would almost certainly land the owners in court. [614 more words]

<http://thejacksonpress.org/?p=80900>

THEJACKSONPRESS.ORG
Christian-owned Bridal Shop Closes Under LGBT Threats
 Written by Michael Tennant The owners of a Pennsylvania bridal shop are closing their business to avoid being forced to provide...

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Always and Forever Weddings Co
March 12 · 🌐

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This Bridal Shop Would Rather Shut Down Than Serve Lesbian Weddings
A Pennsylvania bridal shop has announced that it will close permanently in anticipation of a new city ordinance banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. W.W. Bridal Boutique in Bloomsburg, which made headlines last year when its ...and more »



NEWNOWNEXT.COM

This Bridal Shop Would Rather Shut Down Than Serve Lesbian Weddings

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1

1 Share



Gay Indiana
March 12 at 10:06am · 🌐

W.W. Bridal Christian Shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania Closes Down March 30, 2018 Over Fear of LGBT Law After Facing Death Threats



I AM GAY
March 12 at 10:05am · 🌐

W.W. Bridal Christian Shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania Closes Down March 30, 2018 Over Fear of LGBT Law After Facing Death Threats



Barack Obama - Once You Go Black You Never Go Back
March 12 at 10:05am · 🌐

W.W. Bridal Christian Shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania Closes Down March 30, 2018 Over Fear of LGBT Law After Facing Death Threats



Warsaw Indiana Unplugged News - Uncensored 24/7
March 12 at 10:03am · 🌐

W.W. Bridal Christian Shop in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania Closes Down March 30, 2018 Over Fear of LGBT Law After Facing Death Threats

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3/13/18

LGBT Life March 13 · 🌐 Like Page ***

The owners of a Pennsylvania bridal shop are closing their business to avoid being forced to provide gowns for same-sex weddings in violation of their Christian faith. W.W. Bridal Boutique of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, announced that it will be closing on March 30, the victim of an intolerant Left that has seen fit to sabotage the 22-year-old business with poor online reviews, threats of physical harm to the store and its owners, and soon an ordinance that would almost certainly land the owners in court. [135 more words]

<http://www.lgbtlife.co.uk/christian-owned-bridal-shop-clos.../>



LGSTLIFE.CO.UK
Christian-owned Bridal Shop Closes Under LGBT Threats
 The owners of a Pennsylvania bridal shop are closing their business to avoid being forced to provide gowns for same-sex weddings in...

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3/14/18

Article

<http://www.gayrva.com/news-views/a-pennsylvania-bridal-shop-is-closing-down-so-they-dont-have-to-serve-lgbtq-couples/>

3/15/18

Facebook post

The Press Enterprise - Serving Bloomsburg, Berwick, and Danville, PA March 15 · 🌐 Like Page ***

A controversial bridal shop blames an impending anti-discrimination ordinance for spurring its decision to shut down, but Town Council says that proposed law, first floated in 2014, hasn't come up for discussion since the new majority took office in January.



PRESENTERPRISEONLINE.COM
Post: 'Bullies' shut bridal shop

12 Comments 1 Share

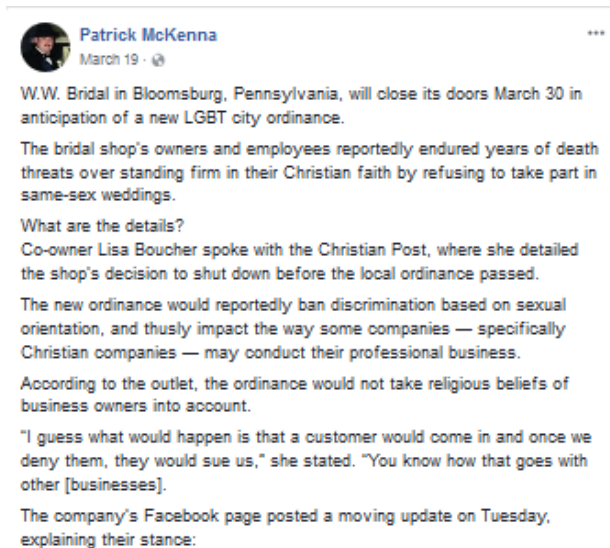
3/18/18

Press enterprise Thorn



3/19/18

Facebook post



3/21/18

Correction in paper

W. W. Bridal Boutique
March 21 at 12:18am · 🌐

This small post in our local paper today does not undo the slander we received by being called a liar. We are asking for a public apology from The Press Enterprise!

CORRECTION

Bridal shop did not post Facebook photo

A photo taken at a Bloomsburg candidates forum last fall was posted on the Press Enterprise Facebook page by a woman identified only as "Lisa Marie"; it showed Town Council candidates answering a question about a non-discrimination ordinance aimed at protecting sexual minorities.

An item Sunday in Roses and Thorns unfairly criticized W.W. Bridal in Bloomsburg for posting and incorrectly captioning the photo.

👤 2,663 people reached Boost Post

👍👎😱 Mike Lad, Joey Satkowski and 47 others 8 Comments 16 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

3/31/18

Fox56 came in for interview, but we declined comment

New coverage

<http://fox56.com/news/local/controversial-bloomsburg-bridal-shop-closes-its-doors-for-good>

Todd Starnes Fox news interview on radio

<https://radio.foxnews.com/2018/03/30/bridal-shop-to-close-after-deadly-threats/>

LETTER TO EDITOR OF PRESS ENTERPRISE

The owners of WW Bridal have lived, been educated, worshiped and worked in our community for over 40 years. We have friends and associates who have supported us and have provided us with creditable information not published by any media outlet. The information provided indicated local politicians and political activists specific desire to start another fight with WW Bridal. Tactics and strategies were also shared with us. Our opposition's intent was made known in the primary and fall of 2017 during the elections. Examples of information like this, in conjunction with guidance from local and state level legal advisors required us to weigh our options going forward.

The bottom line is this. We would continue to run our business according to our deeply held religious beliefs; however, in doing so we would continually be threatened, harassed, called liars, racists and bigots and pressured to give up our rights. Our customers would suffer, our employees would suffer and family members too, until we are forced to "give in" to the "tolerant" side. We have and will maintain our integrity and continue to stand up for our beliefs and provide for our families in other ways.

Moving forward, we plan to close our doors to future bridal customers on March 31, 2018. Our intention is to service the bridal parties currently booked until 2019 and 2018 prom tuxedos. We will provide the best quality service, as we always have, to those bridal parties and this year's prom tuxedos. After we have completed serving these customers, our doors will be permanently closed.

For 22 years, we have been blessed with serving the community with bridal attire. What we have been forced to endure has been extremely hard on our family. Tolerance is a two way street, but we feel tolerance has not been shown to us. We choose rather to close our doors than be forced to go against our religious beliefs or be threatened, harassed and slandered. We continue to trust God for our future needs.

Victoria Miller
WW Bridal Boutique

4/2/18

Todd Starnes article

<https://www.toddstarnes.com/show/christian-owned-bridal-shop-closes-after-death-threats/>

4/4/18

Tom Roten radio show

<https://800wvhu.iheart.com/featured/the-tom-roten-morning-show/content/2018-04-04-what-does-it-cost-christian-business-owner-closing-up/#.WsTxep4xfD0.facebook>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP et. al.

v.

ELENIS et. al.

1:18-cv-02074-WYD-STV

**DECLARATION OF PASTOR RICH PENKOSKI FOUNDER OF WARRIORS FOR
CHRIST AND SOCIALCROSS.ORG**

I, Richard Penkoski, declare under the penalty of perjury, pursuant to 28 USC sec. 1746 as follows:

1. I am over 18.
2. I am the founder of SocialCross.org. SocialCross.org is the premier Christian social networking site, providing Christian content, custom profiles, and so much more.

SocialCross.org is connecting Christians all across the world. Social Cross was created with the specific purpose of tearing down the walls that have divided believers for to long. Social Cross is an alternative to facebook for Christians.¹

¹ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/social-cross-website-offers-christians-alternative-facebook-196418/>

3. I am the founder of Warriors For Christ, which is a pre-denominational ministry, that offers theology degrees, counseling certificates, and a chaplains course to educate those who have been called into ministry.² <https://wfcchurch.org/>. Warriors For Christ has over two hundred thousands followers on facebook.³ I conduct weekly live stream radio interviews and have a dedicated following.

4. In 1994 joined the United States Navy. I graduated top of my class in A school becoming a Petty officer, with a speciality in code. In 1998, I graduated from Seminary Bible College with a degree in Theology becoming licensed ordained Minister. I attended Walden University without a focus on psychology. In 2012, I started Warriors of Christ Ministry and got married. I am a father of 6 children.

² A pre-denominational Christian is a Christian or disciple of Christ who seeks to base all of his or her beliefs and practices upon the New Testament itself, starting with the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. We desire to recover original New Testament Christianity, or the faith once delivered unto the saints. We are neither Catholic nor Protestant and reject any and all Catholic and Protestant traditions that are inconsistent with or contrary to the New Testament, no matter how deeply-entrenched these traditions may have become. Our overriding goal is to be true to Christ and true to the New Testament. In the first century, there was only one church. Christians in different locations were united by a common faith, a common belief, and by a common form of worship. There were churches at Jerusalem, Corinth, Rome, Ephesus, Antioch, and a number of other places. That which separated them was geography — not different teachings. But that was then. . . In the 21st Century, things are a lot different in the religious world. Now we have a variety of different churches, teachings, practices, and forms of worship. In fact did you know that the majority of denominations are less than 600 years old? The Bible teaches that Jesus was only ever going to build (establish) one church: "...I will build My church,..." Matthew 16:18; and that He died to save only one church: "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" Ephesians 5:25. Quite clearly then not all the churches of today can be the one Jesus built. The implications of this is worthy of our deepest consideration. The concept of non-denominational or pre-denominational Christianity which Warriors for Christ espouses, is to do away with all the man-made teachings, creeds, and traditions that have developed over the years. In other words unless a teaching or practice can be found in the Bible we don't hold to it or teach it. By following this simple aim we can be the same church that Christ we read about in the pages of the New Testament established. Warriors for Christ started as a facebook page (<https://facebook.com/warriorschurch>) and quickly grew because of our uncompromising stand and our educating the masses in biblical truth. Part of what made us popular was our exposing and challenging the lies of the atheist community, exposing false teachers and their teachings, as well as the other denominational religions. Warriors for Christ launched WFC University of Theology in 2016 to offer Theology degrees, counseling certificates, and a chaplains course to educate those who have been called into ministry and need to be trained up.

³ <https://www.facebook.com/warriorschurch/>

INDOCTRINATION IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND REPRISAL

5. I moved from New Jersey to West Virginia. While attending 7th grade Middle School at Harpers Ferry, my daughter, Ariana, was confronted with a very liberal agenda at the school. There was clearly a drive for the teachers to indoctrinate students in the religion of Secular Humanism/moral relativism and religions other than Christianity. The social studies teacher elected to bring a Muslim speakers to teach the students about Islam. These Islamic speakers taught my thirteen year old daughter how to put on a jihad and how to meditate. I observed that my daughter was upset by the fact that the teacher would say in class “Jesus is not God.” My daughter would tell me about such things, and she was upset and my wife and I were disturbed by the reports because it was apparent that some of the teachers were proactively using their position as state officials to push a religious worldviews onto my daughter that we found to be false and offensive.

6. I called the Principal of Harpers Ferry Middle School, Mr. Vandell, to confront him about the Islamic indoctrination taking place in the classroom. After telling him my concern, I felt assured that he would talk to the teacher and investigate. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Vandell contacted me to let me know that he did not believe that the teach had done anything wrong. He did assure me that he would press for the teacher to be more inclusive of other religions, since the teacher had admittedly skipped over parts of the text book concerning Christianity. In my personal interaction with the faculty, it was my impression that the the majority were ardent subscribers to the religion of diversity and secular humanism, while being hostile towards Christianity.

7. Before the encounter with the Principal, my daughter had always been a straight A student. However, following my encounter with the Principal, she came home with an F on her interim

report card in the same history class. Mortified, I called the Principal and accused the teacher of prospectively engaging in reprisal for whistleblowing. The Principal assured me that the teacher would not do that and that he would get to the bottom of the matter. Later the Principal contacted me and said that because my daughter had not turned in certain assignments, she was given an F. But that was not true. My daughter had turned in the assignments at issue. In fact, the assignments were graded by the history teacher. Fortunately, my daughter had saved a copy, of the graded assignment which served as direct proof that the teacher was targeting her for reporting. I brought the graded assignments to the principal, and my daughter's grade was readjusted from an F back to an A. The teacher said that it was an oversight. But that was unlikely. My daughter was moved to a different honor class to avoid additional targeting.

THE SECULAR HUMANIST AND LGBTQ SELF-HELP ASSAULT ON MY ORGANIZATION AND FAMILY FOR THINKING DIFFERENTLY

8. I am a Christian Pastor. I believe that Jesus was who he said he was. I refuse to take a scalpel to the Bible and cut out parts that I do not think are relevant to the modern mindset. I believe that such practices are incredibly arrogant and themselves primitive. I take the New Testament at face value and think that divine law trumps all laws that are inconsistent with it. No amount of social or governmental coercion imposed on me and other sincere Christ Followers will ever change the fact that I have to decided to treat Jesus as my King. The Bible is clear that sex is wonderful. God made it after all. Yet, the Bible suggests that healthy sex is all about context, and the context that God intended for humans to have sex in involves only one man and one woman in the confines of covenant marriage. I agree with the Bible's take that all other sexual unions and practices are immoral, obscene, and subversive to human flourishing. This is not just the way that I feel about it, deep down, I believe that everyone just knows that this is the case just as they

know the pedophilia and murder are inherently wrong. No one has to teach us that. It is a matter of self-evident truth. Such perverse practices all equally violate the givenness of our nature and the truth about the way things are as a matter of common sense. Those who suggest otherwise are objectively desensitized and are guilty of intellectual blindness and cannot be taken seriously. Homosexual practices dehumanize and depersonalize us and create a life of opportunity costs. I believe that for the government to encourage homosexual practices is an incredible act of hate, immaturity, and cruelty. In fact, it is a form of rape by trick and government sanctioned sexual exploitation. Ever since I started Warriors for Christ I have been outspoken that homosexuality is a sin and that homosexual theology is toxic and should not be promoted because it involves unhealthy, unnatural, and perverse forms of sex that are insurmountably obscene and indecent.

9. I do not feel morally superior to anyone. I adamantly oppose sin and wrongdoing, not people. Christianity is a belief system that starts with an omission that I am broken and in need of a redeemer. It is an omission of imperfection. The gospel - in part - is that humans are far worse than we imagined by far more loved by God than we could dare fathom. The Church is not a museum for the righteous. No indeed! The Church is a hospital for the sick, but it is in that weakness that I have found hope and strength in a personalized relationship with Jesus Christ. Based on my experience the personalized truth of Jesus is restorative and represents a living hope that is radically transformative. Admittedly, it is on faith that I adopt Christ as a substitutionary atonement for my own fallen nature. My faith in Christ and the living word of God does not come from an absence of thought but the exact opposite. Because I am outspoken and because I refuse to conform to the modern cultural narrative, I have been a major target of harassment for the intolerant LGBTQ community, which is bent on silencing Christians or

converting them to their narrow self-serving worldview, which is nothing more than a mask to justify conduct that was illegal until recently, through tactics of coercion. Obergefell did not create tolerance, it created moral superiority complex in hoards of Secular Humanists.

10. June 2017 was deemed to be “pride month,” which likely would not have come about but for the Courts imposing gay marriage on all 50 states. Facebook created a rainbow pride emoji and the gay pride flag emoji. On June 11, 2017, I posted on facebook that if anyone posted the gay pride emoji or flag on my facebook page that my organization would block them stating: “a rainbow emoji will get you instantly banned from our page.” Consequently, all hell broke loose, as my organization was subjected to a bombardment of the actual intolerance and the white hot hate that is the hallmark of the heart of Secular Humanists. “Patho.org,” which standards for Progressive Secular Humanist, and a publican called the “Friendly Atheist” then published articles encouraging their followers to harass Warriors For Christ. Countless bloggers put out a call to fellow Secular Humanists to harangue me and my organization for our refusal to check out brains at the door of the shallow modern cultural narrative that is exclusive, narrow, out of date, and already on its way out. Thousands of homosexuals and Secular Humanists threaten, harass, and ostracize my organization for not believing in their faith-based worldview.⁴ Pathos article was called: “Christian Facebook Page Fights Rainbow Flag Emojis (And Loses).”The article read as follows:

Facebook has added rainbow flag emojis, and a Christian Facebook page is promising to ban anyone who uses them. In honor of LGBT Pride month the rainbow flag is joining the “thumbs

⁴ Here is an example of a Secular Humanist who put out a call for action on youtube to harangue me. Basically, the speaker in this video proves that people who are dogmatic about not being dogmatic are <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj8gpZm9JjI>

up” and “heart sign,” as well as “excited,” “shocked,” “sad,” and “angry” emoji as a way to react on Facebook. However, the Warriors for Christ Facebook page is not happy that Facebook has added a rainbow flag emoji to their list of possible post reactions, and issued a stern warning explaining that anyone using a rainbow flag emoji would be banned. As one might expect, many reasonable people accepted the challenge, and bombarded the anti-gay Christian Facebook page with happy rainbow flag emojis. In response, the Christian Facebook page issued the following public service announcement:

“Despite all the lies and false accusations here we are not being hateful to any person. We also will not back down from proclaiming (sic) truth of God’s word. Sin is sin period. Sin results in eternal seperation (sic) from God. Despite your lack of understanding of love, we here love everyone enough to speak the truth even in the face of so much hate. So we speak the truth that sin leads to death, but we have a savior that can set one free from sin and give them a new life in Christ. Lord I know that right now many lost people are being sent here by the powers of darkness that control them to harass this page. I pray that when they come here that their eyes be opened up to the truth of your word. Your word is living and active and has the power to reach the heart. And even though these people are coming here as our enemies to hate us, I still pray blessings over them and pray you open their eyes to see the truth clearly. Satan has blinded many to the truth, but we come against any attack or insult or curse of the enemy in Jesus name.”

Bottom line: The “Warriors for Christ” are feeling persecuted because their anti-gay rhetoric is being ridiculed. And all their prayers to a God that does not exist will never justify their pious bigotry and hatred. Bonus: How to get the Pride rainbow flag reaction on Facebook The rainbow flag reaction will only appear as an option for users if they like Facebook’s LGBTQ page. How to get the rainbow flag reaction Log in to Facebook in the app or on the web Go to the LGBTQ@Facebook page Like the page You might need to logout and log back in again before the reaction appears.

11. The article by Pathos was a call for its readers to harass me. The article falsely stated that “many reasonable people” responded to my post, but the responses were not reasonable. In many

cases, the threats sent my way were illegal and were clearly calculated to marginalize and oppose me for not buying into the narrow minded and illogical narratives of the LGBTQ church.

Because the writers at Pathos are devout moral relativists they arrogantly assume that everyone else should be as well. However, it takes a huge amount of faith to believe that God does not exist, that this life is just one big accident, that humans are merely animated pieces of meat, and that we are all just accidental particles. Meanwhile, the evidence suggests otherwise, if there is no such thing as God, then is no basis for justice, which would mean that there is no basis for Courts, which is absurd. It is simply a fact that without faith there is no basis for morality, and without morality there is no basis for law. Clearly, actual justice exists because this Court would not exist otherwise, neither would the Constitution.

12. On or around June 12, 2017, the Friendly Atheist published an article in response to my June 11, 2017 post that read as follows:

“Here’s some advice. If you run a Facebook page promoting Jesus, and you call yourselves “Warriors for Christ,” don’t tell everyone you can’t handle rainbow emojis. Naturally, everyone began posting comments with plenty of rainbows. It’s almost like the threat of being banned from the page didn’t stop them... And the Warriors were not happy about that at all. There are more rainbow emojis in that thread, too. It’s entirely possible those are just trolls pretending to be Christian... but there’s a long history of inflammatory statements and videos on that page, not to mention a website, that all suggest these people really exist. All the more reason to keep showing your solidarity with the LGBTQ community.”

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2017/06/12/a-christian-facebook-page-will-ban-anyone-posting-rainbow-emojis-guess-how-this-ends/#ULbWeRrSvKvdQABu.99>

13. As a Pastor and Minister who studied theology, I can attest that the gay pride rainbow colored flag is a religious symbol. The gay pride flag is the paramount religious image for the LGBTQ church of Secular Humanism and Postmodern western moral relativism - expressive individualism. Facebook knows or should know that to be the case. Facebook knows or should

know that the rainbow colored flag is a mask that promotes a form of obscenity and indecent sexual conduct that erodes community standards of decency that is by definition exploitative. Just as a Muslim might not want a cross emoji posted on his social media page, I do not want the LGBTQ Secular Humanist - who are driven by emotion and not by reason - to come to my cyberspace to post their exclusive religious icon either. The fact that I made that clear only to provoke the opposite result is proof that government sponsored gay marriage is a sham that has cultivated an entitlement syndrome that is dangerous. The truth is that "homosexuality" is a religion - although an irrational one - and the main icon for that religion is the rainbow colored flag. The rainbow colored flag is not neutral. It is not secular. The rainbow colored flag promotes a theocratic orthodoxy that is based on a series of unproven faith-based assumptions that are at the very least implicitly religious. Facebook, many self-identified homosexuals, and most Democrat leaders know or should know this to be the case. No one can prove or disprove that they are born gay and, therefore, homosexual ideology can only be taken on faith and is, therefore, religious in nature. While self-identified homosexuals are free to have their beliefs, the governments endorsement of those faith has cultivated an entitlement for such believers to bash Christians, like myself, with a false sense of impunity is an evil that can no longer be justified through the false misappropriation of the race-based civil rights movement lead by Pastor Martin Luther King Jr..

14. In retaliation to my post on June 11, 2017, I receive thousands of threats through the mail. Tens of thousands of text messages poured in. I had to block over 900,000 people from facebook who were intentionally harassing my organization and its members. Feces were mailed to my home. My car was keyed. My wife and children were threatened. There were people who began

stalking my family. It got so bad that I went to the police for help and advice. Based on the advice of local law enforcement, I decided to move my family.

15. Based on my experience, it is my observation that gay marriage is a sham and that the fake gay civil rights movement is a sham. I can attest first hand that the gay civil rights movement has nothing to do with tolerance, equality, unity, and peace. The governments entanglement with the fake gay civil rights movement has only manage to plunge the believers in the religion of Secular Humanism into further darkness and a form of entitlement that is patently destructive and dangerous. The governments entanglement with the fake gay civil rights movement and the religion of Secular Humanism has in fact cultivated uncompromisable division, vast selfishness, and profounded hate towards those who do not believe in the narrow religion of Secular Humanism endorsed through clear abuse of process and malicious prosecution. Just as Islam is not really a religion of peace, Secular Humanism is the opposite of the religion of tolerance. The idea that “love is love” or that the gay marriage would bring about dignity, respect, understanding, and tolerance is a complete sham that has nothing to do with reality. While gay marriage is fake marriage, the persecution of Christians that has taken place in the wake of *Obergefell* by emotionally driven Secular Humanist is very real. By force law, the government must disentangle itself with the religious plight of self-identified homosexuals and the doctrines of Secular Humanism .

16. Having received over 10,000 spam text messages to my phone and untold harassment message, I felt compelled to assemble some of choice threats that I had received in response to my message on June 11, 2017 and put them together in this youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMMNYG9nTek>. The judicial putsch in Obergefell is the

superseding cause of the harassment that I and millions of other Christians are subject to. Here are some of the messages that I received that prove that gay marriage is sham.

-Christine Cates sent me: "Who could ever say that about anyone?...Seriously kill yourself, please...There is a special place who have NO compassion or empathy for one another...If your incredibly lucky...you get jail....after that I can only smile."

-Nic Valle sent me this message: "These are the ones that think they are persecuted. Why the Romans fed people like this to lions."

-Maxwell Atkins sent me this message: "He's right. [Christians] all deserve to die."

-Alice Sonlaw wrote: "Whoever runs this page needs to go eat a gun. Seriously kill yourself! Please."

-Lily Lynn sent me this message: "Maybe you'll stop getting hate if you stop spreading hate on the LGBTQ community oh no beware my gay ass is going to fuck your wife. #lovewins #pride"

-Darrin Betzman send me this message: "You should kill yourself."

-Jamie Lynn Myer wrote "You should do it...."

-Peter Griffith wrote "Can't wait for the years after the rapture...when all you believers are persecuted and beheaded!!! Ohhh joy"

-Alexander Dimes wrote: "I literally want you to get hit by a car."

-Bob Galvin wrote: "I'm here looking of a guy named Jesus, I just bought a new nail gun..."

-Shane Walsh wrote "you should definitely kill yourselves...or you can keep trying to restart the crusades. Either or."

-James Garrett Chaffee send me this message: "Oh my fuck you people are pathetic zealots....Like make the jump to a cyanide laced kool aid already and let the world progress without your 15th century ass views."

17. I literally received thousands of threatening and harassing messages like that. I still do. It's been more than over six months and the harassment continues. If I am receiving messages like this, I am concerned that minors who are Christians are also receiving such messages from the same entitled and aggressive Secular Humanists who believe that their conduct is justified by the government ratification. And why shouldn't Secular Humanist feel entitled to bash non-observers in view of the government's endorsement of their faith? Secular Humanists pride themselves on not believing absolute truth and the belief that there is no form of ultimate accountability. It is self-evident that many are driven by their glands and not a sense of transcultural justice or accountability. The government's wrongful entanglement with the fake gay civil rights movement and the religion of secular humanism has emboldened the legion of Secular Humanist to engage in the outrageous tactics they have employed on me and my organizations. I am an adult and while those threats directed at myself and my family are distressful and disturbing, I am incredibly concerned for the welfare, health, and safety of teenage Christians who are being bullied by the fake tolerant Secular Humanists and the LGBTQ church thanks to the governments wrongful entanglement with the LGBTQ church. It is my observation and opinion that the Courts have grossly eroded freedom and produced persecution by imposing gay marriage on the whole of society by the government's reckless decision to respect the most popular form of parody marriage in a manner that completely entangles the government with the religion of Secular Humanism. As a taxpayer, I object to that

entanglement. It is my observation and experience that the government's endorsement of the fake gay civil rights movement is fundamentally causing division, intolerance, confusion, and harm. It is my observation that the LGBTQ movement proves that love without truth is shallow sentimentality. It is my opinion as a former Soldier, taxpayer, and citizen that the government must no longer legally recognize gay marriage or gay rights as civil rights - they never were. The government's decision to respect the gay civil rights movement as if it is secular in nature - when it is not - has lead to mass confusion, intolerance, and persecution by those who pride themselves on the idea that there is no ultimate form of accountability. The government's promotion of the lack of checks and balances on the human heart by the ratification of an orthodoxy that it only pretends is indefensible is downright dangerous and it is a policy practice that must completely end in all 50 states. Our government is not a church and it is not a redeemer. By entangling itself with the religion of secular humanism, the government has communicated to social networking platform, like facebook, that it too should make Secular Humanism its supreme official religion. The reason why facebook does not provide a cross icon, the ten commandments icon, or the star and crescent icon but it does provide the gay pride flag icon is because the Federal Courts have wrongfully entangled the government with the religion of secular humanism through the *Obergefell* decision which must now be overruled as the sham that it always was.

18. Around July 6, 2017, I did an interview with Christian Post about the persecution my organization and I were subjected to. The article was entitled: "Pastor Receives Feces in Mail, Has Car Keyed for Opposing Facebook's Rainbow Flag Emoji." The information in the article is true and accurate and reads as follows:

A pastor who leads a Christian ministry that vowed to ban anyone who posts the rainbow flag emoji to its Facebook page says LGBT activists have inundated his inbox, mailbox and phone lines with gay porn and threatening messages. They even keyed his car. The Facebook page "Warriors for Christ (<https://www.facebook.com/warriorschurch/>)," which has nearly 200,000 followers, made headlines last month after it was reported (<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2017/06/12/a-christian-facebook-page-will-ban-anyone-posting-rainbow-emojis-guess-how-this-ends/>) by Patheos.com blogger Hemant Mehta, the "Friendly Atheist," that anyone who posts a rainbow flag emoji on the Facebook page would be "instantly" banned from the page. Pastor Rich Penkoski, a West Virginia resident who is the leader of the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/warriorschurch/>) and its pre-denominational ministry (<https://wfcchurch.org/>), told The Christian Post on Thursday that he and his colleagues have banned over 900,000 different Facebook users in the last month. "The thing about the rainbow flag is nobody asked why we didn't want it on our page. The issue was that the rainbow emoji is a pride symbol for homosexuality and we are a Christian ministry," Penkoski said. "We don't celebrate sin and we are not going to embrace it now. We know, as Christians, that sin leads to death." However, it's not just the use of the rainbow flag emoji that is concerning Penkoski and his nine-or-so colleagues affiliated with the ministry. "The 'Friendly Atheist' character wrote a blog about us and it snowballed from there. Every single online gay blog or newspapers, they all picked it up and went with their version of it. We got hammered. It must have been overnight. We banned over 900,000 people," Penkoski added. "We received messages of 'You should die,' 'Go kill yourself.'" Penkoski said he even had to change his home address to that of the local police station because of the "threats we were getting." Penkoski also

had to change his phone number because he received over 20,000 spam text messages within two days. He said people had signed him up to receive calls, texts and emails about gay dating websites, car insurance companies, car dealerships and other commercial advertisements.

"Before we could change [the address], they sent fecal matter to our house, gay porn to our house. Last night, for instance, someone threatened [in a Facebook message] to rape me. They said if I disrespect their pride flag they would come pound my [behind]," he explained. "These people are absolutely horrid. ... These are the types of things a decent human being wouldn't do, regardless of whether they are Christian or not. It was all meant to bully us and try to silence us."

"We had to go arm ourselves because people would send me personal emails through our website's contact form, saying they know where I live," he continued. Penkoski added that his car was keyed after the hysteria surrounding the group's Facebook post first began last month and opponents found his home address on the ministry's website. "We didn't realize the address was on there until this started happening and we started getting mail," he said. "The police said that this is completely unacceptable and this is actually a hate crime." Penkoski explained that the prayer line the ministry operates, which he said also doubles as a suicide crisis line, was inundated with calls from LGBT supporters in the days following reports of the "Warriors for Christ" Facebook post. The original intent behind the controversial Facebook post, Penkoski said, was not to hate on anybody but to "tell people the truth regardless of cost or consequence," adding that the backlash he has received has been "absolutely evil." "People can't stand that. They can't stand any disagreement," Penkoski said. "They automatically assume that it is hatred and nothing can be further from the truth." "Warriors for Christ" is not the only Christian Facebook page that has received intense backlash from the LGBT community. Elizabeth

Johnston, a conservative evangelical homeschool mom who runs the popular blog and Facebook page "The Activist Mommy," shared screenshots with CP that show how LGBT activists have inundated her inbox with emails saying that she had been signed up for Pornhub.com and the Gay DVD Empire newsletter. She also has received emails from LGBT supporters telling her to go kill herself. "I am honored to experience a very small amount of persecution for my Lord. I'm not in prison yet or being tortured for my faith yet, but that is where we are headed if Christians don't quickly find their voice," Johnston wrote in a recent blog post (<http://www.activistmommyofficial.com/blog/the-activist-mommy-mocks-personal-hit-piece-from-the-lgbt-advocate-magazine/>). "The threats, ridicule and personal attacks are a constant reminder to me of the power of the Gospel. God's Word is true and the best defense the father of lies has is cruel personal attack, lies and threats. I will not be silent, even if it costs me my life, for my love for God supersedes my love for my life." See <https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-receives-feces-mail-car-keyed-opposing-facebooks-rainbow-flag-emoji-191104/>

19. The July 6, 2017 article correctly confirms the fact that my car was keyed, feces were mailed to my house by Secular Humanists, that I had to block over hundreds of thousands of people from harassing my facebook page.

20. On July 11, 2017 I did an interview with the Christian Post entitled "Pastor Says Facebook Removed Live Video After Calling Pride Rainbow Mark of the Beast." The information in the article is true and accurate and can give the law makers insight into the persecution that I and other Christians have faced:

“A West Virginia pastor who has expressed vocal opposition to Facebook's pro-LGBT rainbow emoji is accusing the social media site of unjustly suspending his personal account. Pastor Rich Penkoski, who oversees the popular "Warriors for Christ (https://www.facebook.com/pg/warriorschurch/about/?ref=page_internal)" Facebook Page, told The Christian Post in an interview on Tuesday that his account was suspended as he was "doing a live sermon." "I was preaching about how the pride rainbow could be the mark of the beast and how Mark Zuckerberg wanted to have Facebook replace the church," recalled Penkoski. "Within 1 minute I was kicked off my live video and had to log back in. I received a notice that my live video was removed for violating Facebook Terms of Service." Penkoski explained to CP that this was his most recent temporary suspension from the social media, remarking that "I get banned all the time." "I have been banned for 30 days for calling an atheist a liar. I've been banned for showing photos of Quranic verses about killing infidels," he continued. "I've been banned for saying LGBT, which is why I now use lgbtqrstuv on the page. They keep adding letters anyway so it fits." To celebrate Pride Month in June, Facebook added a rainbow flag to its usual list of emoji reactions that people can use when reacting to a comment. "We believe in building a platform that supports all communities. So we're celebrating love and diversity this Pride by giving you a special reaction to use during Pride Month," stated The Official LGBTQ Resource Page for Facebook.

(<https://www.facebook.com/LGBTQ/photos/a.559035344122874.147187.545385972154478/1875150119178050/?type=3&theater>) Penkoski garnered headlines last month when he announced that anyone who used the rainbow flag emoji on the "Warriors for Christ" Facebook page would be banned. The West Virginia preacher received a great deal of negative backlash, including

derogatory comments, thousands of text messages, and fake pages set up on Facebook to mock him. "Every single online gay blog or newspapers, they all picked it up and went with their version of it," said Penkoski to CP in an earlier interview.

(<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-receives-feces-mail-car-keyed-opposing-facebooks-rainbow-flag-emoji-191104/>) "We got hammered. It must have been overnight. We banned over 900,000 people ... We received messages of 'You should die,' 'Go kill yourself.'"

21. Around June 26, 2017, I did an interview with Christian Post was re-posted by Christian Today which includes information that is true and accurate that summarizes some of the situation I experienced. The Article is entitled: "Pastor who banned rainbow flag emoji from his Facebook page is forced to flee after receiving death threats." The article accurately reads:

"A West Virginia pastor who has received threats and endured various other forms of harassment for voicing opposition to Facebook's rainbow flag emoji has moved his family out of their home in Harpers Ferry after being advised by local police to do so because of safety concerns. As previously reported, Richard Penkoski, who runs the online ministry "Warriors for Christ," has received an immense amount of backlash from LGBT advocates after the popular Warriors for Christ Facebook page vowed in June that anyone who posted the rainbow flag emoji on the page would be banned by its administrators. Penkoski told The Christian Post that he didn't want the rainbow flag emoji on the "Warriors for Christ" page because it "is a pride symbol for homosexuality and we are a Christian ministry." After Patheos.com's "Friendly Atheist" Hemant Mehta reported on how Warriors for Christ would ban anyone from its Facebook page who posted the rainbow flag emoji, the Facebook page was quickly inundated with over 900,000 rainbow emojis and the "Warriors' for Christ" prayer line was inundated with callers who

opposed the ministry's view on sexuality. Because the Warriors for Christ webpage listed Penkoski's home address, he and his family have received threats, have had feces sent to their house and have had their car keyed up. Additionally, Penkoski says that there were occasions when he would see random people walking back and forth on the road outside of his home. Last Tuesday, Penkoski received the most chilling threat in the form of a Facebook message from a man named Michael Grant. "I know somebody waiting right now to put a bullet through your skull," Grant's message, which was shared with The Christian Post, reads. Grant's message continued by warning Penkoski that someone was going to kill him and his family. Penkoski told CP that the message from Grant came just one day after he and his wife decided to move out of their rental home in Harpers Ferry, which they had lived in for only eight months after the family moved to West Virginia from New Jersey in 2015. Having now settled into a new rental home in a new town, Penkoski said that his home address will not be shared on the ministry website or Facebook page. "I am not going to back down from it, but I do have six children and I do have to be wise about that as well. To me, honestly, it's just a matter of time until one of these people does something stupid," Penkoski explained. "It was recommended by the police and my attorney as well that as much as we want to stand up, maybe it is just smartest to move because all these people know where we live. It is a smart thing to do for my family's sake." Penkoski assured that "none of this is going to cause me to back down. "We are not going to stop telling the truth." This article was originally published in The Christian Post."

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/pastor-who-banned-rainbow-flag-emoji-from-his-facebook-page-is-forced-to-flee-after-receiving-death-threats/111157.htm>

22. The July 11, 2017 article confirmed that I was subjected to threats and harassment for opposing homosexual practices. The harassment fails to show that “love is love” but it does prove that legally recognized gay marriage is a sham.

23. The June 26, 2017 article correctly describes my experience. My experience does not show that “love is love.” but it does prove that legally recognized gay marriage is a sham. In America, I thought that tolerance was supposed to cut both ways. It is my observation that the government’s entanglement with the fake gay civil rights movement is the superseding cause of my harm and the harm of other Christians. My family and myself did receive death threats. We were forced to move out of our home. As a former Soldier, I am not living in the same America that I defended.

24. My facebook page was not the only Christian page that was getting bombarded with the rainbow emoji and threats by aggressive Secular Humanist, who feel entitled by fellow Secular Humanists in office to conduct a crusade to oppress Christians.

<https://hellochristian.com/8482-pastor-receives-death-threats-for-opposing-facebooks-rainbow-flag-emoji>

25. In response to all of the harassment and targeting I received from Secular Humanists on Facebook, I decided to start my own facebook for Christians called SocialCross.org. Around August 27, 2017, I did an interview with the Christian Post about the Socialcross. The information in the article is accurate and will provide some insights to the Courts and legislatures. The article reads as follows:

Conservative Christians who've been barred from Facebook for posting their beliefs about homosexuality and LGBT issues now have a new social media platform they can join that won't

block users for defending biblical principals. After being suspended from Facebook numerous times for posting their thoughts on LGBT issues, a group of Christian preachers have launched a social networking alternative to Facebook called SocialCross (<https://socialcross.org/>).

SocialCross, which works in a very similar manner to Facebook, aims to give Christians a place to engage and have conversations about events going on in the world without fear that their accounts will be suspended or blocked. In just three weeks since it has been launched, over 2,300 users have signed up for SocialCross. "This is a place where we can all come together as people who believe in Christ who want to share with one another and learn from each other, and do so without an environment of fear of having people report our post or Facebook blocking us for 30 days," the website's co-founder, Rich Penkoski, a West Virginia-based preacher and co-founder of the online pre-denominational ministry Warriors for Christ (<https://wfcchurch.org/>), told The Christian Post in an interview this week. Penkoski explained that he and his colleagues were inspired to create their own social media platform that allows Christians to speak freely and openly after his personal Facebook page was banned for 30 days on separate occasions in July because of comments he made in online threads that were reported to Facebook administrators by LGBT Facebook users. Penkoski and the Warriors for Christ Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/warriorschurch/>) made headlines in June when the ministry vowed to block anyone who posted the LGBT rainbow flag emoji (<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2017/06/12/a-christian-facebook-page-will-ban-anyone-posting-rainbow-emojis-guess-how-this-ends/>) on its Facebook page. "People were asking me for years to [build this kind of site] and I always said no. But when the whole thing happened with us in July, [my colleagues] were like, 'You know Rich, maybe we should.' I kept getting

banned. I just got off another 30-day ban," Penkoski said. "Another one of our guys got banned for saying, 'Jesus Christ can cure homosexuals from homosexuality.' He got banned for that. It was my ministry team that was like, 'This is the time to really start it.' I prayed about it a lot. I said, 'You know what? Let's do it.'" Along with Penkoski, the site was founded by his wife, Amanda, and their colleagues Anita Kallinicos and Nellchy Kentley. But with little Web development experience between the four of them, they hired the Indian-based company Pas Softech to build the new website. Penkoski said the Christian social media site was developed by PAS Softech Pvt. Ltd (<http://www.passoftech.com>), which is run by a Hindu man named Ankur Agarwal, and was created in less than two months. "The whole idea is that it's a Christian site, run by Christians, designed by Christians and based on biblical principles," Penkoski said. "But anybody and their brother can join so long as they understand that we're a Christian site run by Christians." The site allows users to interact with each other by posting Christian-themed emojis such as a cross, praying hands, praise hands, an ichthys, a christian flag, a Bible and others. One unique aspect of the site is that it allows users to search for relevant Bible verses without having to leave the site. Users can easily use the "Bible Search" located in the upper right-hand corner of the SocialCross homepage to look up Scripture. "This is a social networking site with the features that all of us Christians want," Penkoski asserted. The site's code of conduct (https://socialcross.org/terms/code_of_conduct) prohibits any use of profanity, racial epithets and sexually explicit adult material. The code of conduct also prohibits users from harassing others and authoring personal attacks. "You may express your disagreement with someone's point of view, but personal attacks, or attacks based on another person's race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disablement or other such affiliation, are prohibited," the SocialCross code of conduct

states. "A violation in this area may result in a warning or immediate termination from service. If you receive such a warning, you agree to read the SocialCross.org Terms and Conditions again." Penkoski added that although members of the LGBT community are allowed to join SocialCross, they are not allowed to harass users because of their belief in biblical definitions of marriage and sexuality. "LGBT members are welcome so long as they are not going to try to cram that garbage down our throats," Penkoski asserted. "If you want to come and ask honest questions and have honest dialogue, you are more than welcome. But if the goal is to comment and force their lifestyle on others, that is not going to be allowed." Penkoski said that since the website launched in its beta mode three weeks ago, "LGBT trolls" have found the page and harassed users. "This is the same group of people that says to leave them alone," Penkoski said. "We started a Christian social network site and they have to hop right over there, too, telling us to go die and leave them alone. It makes no sense." Penkoski added that people who promote hate groups and hateful ideologies like white supremacy and neo-Nazism are not welcome on the social media site. Penkoski and his team have already had to ban one Nazi supporter from the website. "Over 2,000 people are using the site. We had to upgrade servers twice because of it," Penkoski said. "For the most part, it's just a Christian audience right now. We haven't had any real issues and we are surprised because we are in the crosshairs of certain groups of people who know that we are doing it." Considering that over 2,300 people have signed up for the platform in just under three weeks with relatively little promotion or advertising of SocialCross, except on the Warriors for Christ Facebook page, Penkoski and his team are expecting that they will need to increase the SocialCross staff in the future. Although the founders initially intended for SocialCross to be a nonprofit and advertisement free, Penkoski said that they quickly realized that the costs of

running a site like this would be too great not to allow for paid advertisers. "When I set this up, [our server company] said that based upon the growth that they see so far, they can honestly see us using 100 servers in a year or two year's time. You are talking \$10,000-a-month to keep this thing running," Penkoski explained. "There is no way we can do it as a nonprofit. There is just no way." Penkoski said he's hopeful that within the next two months, SocialCross users will be able to do livestreaming. Although SocialCross has been launched, Penkoski emphasized that the site is still in its "development mode" and they're in the process of working out some of the issues. "It's hard to launch something like this without fully launching it, because without actual people using it there's no way we are going to find all the bugs in a real- world situation," he said. "It's like when an app launches for the first time or when a new phone launches, they say it's a launch but it is still technically in beta. Because we have a lot of people using it, we fixed a lot of things and are adding features. We are launched but we are still in that development mode."

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/social-cross-website-offers-christians-alternative-facebook-196418/>

26. The net result of Obergefell is not tolerance and openness. Christians and other non-observers will naturally withdraw into their own communities and circle the wagons to avoid being subjected to abuse and harassment. Legally recognized gay marriage is a sham imposed by a handful of Secular Humanist judges at the expense of fundamental liberty interests. While legally recognized gay marriage is fake marriage, the erosion of liberty interests is very real. I have personally observed this.

III. LGBTQ IDEOLOGY INFILTRATES THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

27. After moving my family to a new location because of the threats, I decided to place my children in a new school in the hopes of getting a new start. My daughter entered into the 8th grade. The school conducted an anti-suicide week. The teacher, Mrs. Coffin, took it upon herself show the students a pro-gay video that was not part of the programing. The video displayed two boys in bed being romantic with each other. Mrs. Coffin told the students not to tell their parents that she showed them the video. In response, my daughter went straight home and told me what had happened because I have raised her to report wrongdoing like that. Since Secular Humanists have no standard of right and wrong, there is no standard for character and decency, which means in reality that Secular Humanists in position of authority are often times a terrible influence.

28. Mrs. Coffin is pro-transgender very pro-LGBTQ. In keeping with a pattern of inappropriate behavior, she “friends” students on Instagram. My daughter was following her. This teacher is a devout Secular Humanist who prides herself on not believing in truth and is all around a bad influence for failing to know the objective difference between right and wrong and real and fake.

29. In response to the showing the pro-LGBTQ video, I called the Principal of the school, Dr. Branch. He said that he would investigate. A Christian publication contacted the Board of Education. The Principal reported back to me that the students wanted Mrs. Coffin to play the video. My daughter was called to the Principal’s office where the Principal told her that “students who lie make my job harder.” This caused my daughter to have a panic attack and she had to go see the school nurse. The Board of Education then investigated the Principal for bullying. Meanwhile, I am in disbelief at the lack of moral compass manifested by Secular Humanist educators whose salaries fall on the taxpayer shoulders, like myself.

30. In response to my daughter's reporting both Mrs. Coffin and another teacher, who is also a devout Secular Humanist, attempted to drop my daughters grade. My daughters grade went from an A to an F in the school's electronic grading system. My wife caught this sudden change in grade, since parents have access to this system. My wife went the Principal's office, with my daughter, and member of the Board Of Education to confront him about the change in grade. My wife was furious at the Principal's lack of leadership and his abuse, she made it clear that he was not to talk to our daughter again without at least one of her parents present.

31. This experience was immensely painful for us because we were reliving the past all over again that was imposed the year before at Harpers Ferry Middle School. My interaction with the LGBTQ church was very public and well known, and I believe that the teachers at my daughter school were treating her with animus, disapproval, and disproportionate disfavor because of my public stance that homosexuality is a sin that is immoral and that is a perspective pathway to pediphillia to be legalized.

32. While there has not been the promised land rush on gay marriage in the wake of *Obergefell*, I can attest that there has been a landrush on Secular Humanist in the elementary schools to indoctrinate minors to a religious worldview on sex that was illegal until recently, that fails to check out with the natural design, that is inherently exploitative, and that threatens community standards of decency. My daughter can attest to that as well. This kind of injustice is not just taking place in West Virginia Middle Schools, these practices are taking place in public schools all across the United States. I know this because of my interaction with the fans of my radio show and with the followers of Warriors of Christ. Prior to *Obergefell*, the levels of

indoctrination of LGBTQ orthodoxy within the public schools was not the same level following the decision.

33. I and other Christians like myself get blocked from facebook all the time for not converting to Secular Humanism that the government has wrongfully and recklessly endorsed and promoted. The Government's entanglement with the fake gay civil rights movement is bad for speech and has a chilling effect that is incredibly destructive and damaging. Over all, the government's endorsement of gay marriage and its decision to falsely treat sexual orientation as a suspect class has been and continues to be a total disaster that has greatly eroded freedom and rights that are real and that are protected for good reason. As a former Soldier of the United States Military, I am appalled that the members of the Court would entangle the government with what amounts to a civil rights charade that is nothing more than a sword to oppress Christians and other non-observers.

34. I am a taxpayer, I have standing to sue to enjoin the government from legally recognizing gay marriage for violating the Establishment Clause because my personal experience and the experiences of my daughter in the elementary schools unequivocally shows that gay marriage policy and sexual orientation discrimination statutes fail all three prongs of the Lemon test. I am an layman and I can see that. In order to protect minors and to restore Constitutional rights, I implore this Court and the legislature to stop legally recognizing gay marriage and sexual orientation as a suspect class.

35. I ask the legislature and the Courts to honor the Constitution and end its entanglement with the LGBTQ religion and the religion of Secular Humanism completely.

I attest under the penalty of perjury that the above mentioned statements are true and accurate.



Pastor Richard Penkoski
Founder of Warriors For Christ
And SocialCross.org