

LGBT Pride flags spark controversy, support in Utah city

Deseret News

By Gretel Kauffman

June 10, 2019

<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/900074800/lgbt-pride-flags-heber-city-utah-spark-controversy-support.html>

HEBER CITY — When Allison Phillips Belnap asked to adorn her town's lampposts with rainbow flags, she expected some critics.

"It would have been naive for me to think that there would not have been a strong possibility of some negative feedback," Belnap said. "But I just felt very moved that it was time for us ... in my community, and Utah as a whole, to look past some of the older thoughts and beliefs and start saying we care more about people than we care about what happens behind closed doors."

Flags reading "PRIDE in the Wasatch Back" went up throughout Heber City at the start of June — recognized nationally as LGBT Pride Month — and will remain there for the duration of the month, city officials say. The banners were paid for through a GoFundMe campaign created by Belnap, a Heber citizen, whose request to fly the flags was granted in accordance with a city policy that lets residents apply to hang personalized banners on city lamp posts.



The flags have caused a stir in the 15,000-person town and beyond, drawing attention at a Heber City Council meeting, on social media and from the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah. Some of the discussion has revolved around the flags' message itself. But the controversy has also raised broader questions for the city about whether — and how — to determine what kind of content can be publicly displayed on city property.

Mayor Kelleen Potter, who gave the Pride flags the official stamp of approval, said she's been surprised by the volume of feedback on the matter. She said she viewed the flags as a commemoration of a civil rights issue.

"I guess I knew that there were people who might not like it, but it's turned into a much bigger issue than I've anticipated," Potter said.

Initially, Belnap, a parent to LGBT children and a member of the LGBT community herself, hoped to put rainbow flags in private yards around Heber City as part of Project Rainbow, a fundraising campaign that benefits the Utah Pride Center. But the center had run out of flags. And so Belnap came up with a backup plan to show support for her community: designing and hanging banners on the city lampposts. The total cost came to just over \$2,500, and has since been covered through donations to Belnap's GoFundMe account. The remaining donations will go to the Utah Pride Center and Encircle, a local resource center for LGBT family and youth. No tax dollars were spent on the flags.

The positive response to the flags, Belnap said, has been “overwhelming.” But the banners have also attracted critics who question whether their message is appropriate for public city streets and worry that Heber City’s policy could also allow for other, more nefarious public displays in the future.

Several residents who spoke out against the banners at a City Council meeting last week said they didn't believe the flags, which they saw as a statement of support for the "political agenda of the LGBT community," reflected the values of Heber City.

Others said they agreed with the general message behind the flags — support for the LGBT community — but didn't believe the banners belonged on city lampposts.

Wasatch County Councilman Danny Goode, who spoke at the city council meeting in a personal, not professional, capacity, urged Heber City to rethink its banner policy, saying he worried about the "politicizing" of Main Street flags. Goode wondered what other kinds of viewpoints the city would be legally required to allow under the First Amendment. Would the policy also protect a Confederate flag, he asked, or a Nazi flag?

“When we sponsor things as a public entity, I think we have to be careful not to enter into a political realm,” Goode said.

Belnap and Potter say the message behind the flags isn’t political, but personal. As a parent of two LGBT children, Potter said she has seen firsthand the challenges that some gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Heber residents face. Both her son, who is gay, and her daughter, who is transgender, left Heber City in the middle of high school to live with a relative out of town.

After coming out as gay in Heber City, Potter said her son experienced violence and verbal harassment, including people throwing things at him from cars and texting him threats and homophobic slurs. She's heard similar stories from others in the community.

"I don't think people are necessarily outright mean," Potter said. "But there's a feeling when you know you're not accepted, and when people look at you as a sinner or a deviant. It does something deep to a person's sense of identity and well-being and confidence."

City officials say they have no plans to remove the flags before the end of the month, a stance applauded by the ACLU of Utah. Under the city's current policy, taking the flags down prematurely on the basis of their messaging would violate the First Amendment rights of those who put them up, according to John Mejia, legal director of the ACLU of Utah.

In a statement issued Monday, the organization said that to remove the banners because of backlash would be a "serious mistake."

ACLU of Utah Letter: <https://www.acluutah.org/newsroom/item/1547-aclu-of-utah-letter-to-heber-city-about-pride-in-the-wasatch-back-banners>

"We wanted to shed some light on what the First Amendment issues were at stake in the debate and clarify that we believe that the city is doing the right thing by keeping the banners," Mejia explained in an interview.

While the Pride flags are protected by the First Amendment, Mejia noted, so indeed would be a Confederate flag or Nazi flag, as Goode had wondered. While Potter said she can't imagine anyone in Heber City requesting to hang Confederate or Nazi flags in the streets, she believes the city will need to revisit its banner policy in the near future. The Pride flags may have been the first lamppost banners to cause controversy, but Potter says she doubts they'll be the last, especially in light of the attention and backlash they've received.

"Part of it is just the evolution of a small town," Potter said. "We haven't had the issue come up before, so we haven't addressed it yet."

Some of the debate over the banners, Potter believes, might come down to how people define "pride." For some people, she says, the word may bring to mind the loud, flashy spectacle of a parade. When the mayor sees the rainbow flags on the streets of her city, she has a quieter, more peaceful vision — of "a community of caring people showing kindness and acceptance for marginalized people who haven't been accepted in the past."

"I'm hoping people will see it as that," Potter said, "and not as something controversial to take sides on."



Comments

Mr. Boris - Layton, UT

June 11, 2019 12:19 p.m.

The LGBT community wants acceptance but then they constantly separate themselves from everyone else. They are the ones that make it an issue when a majority of people don't care one way or the other.

I'm straight but I don't need to feel pride or have a parade or hang up flags to announce it.

I don't care who is gay and who is straight and I'll treat everyone the same regardless.

2 Like

Report

shamrock - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 11:58 a.m.

Would some of you be alarmed if Heber City displayed flags commemorating Pioneer Day or Black History month or Cinco de Mayo, especially if no public funds were used to pay for the flags? If not, why not?

The Supreme Court has made it clear that LGBTQ citizens are equal, just as minority citizens are equal. The fact that some of you still think gays should hide their identity ("don't push it in our face") or not express any "pride" in it indicates our society has a ways to go in reaching real equality.

Also, if you really think a person's gay identity (an inherent trait) is the same as identifying as a Nazi (an evil choice), maybe you haven't quite thought this issue through with the nuance it deserves.

Like

Report

bleedred13 - Provo, UT

June 11, 2019 11:57 a.m.

The "gay agenda" is being referenced frequently in this comment section. It appears few people know of its origins.

What is the gay agenda?

This term was introduced by sectors of the Christian religious right as a disparaging way to describe the advocacy of cultural acceptance and normalization of non-heterosexual orientations.

"The gay agenda" was popularized by a video series produced by the evangelical religious group, Springs of Life Ministries, and distributed by many Christian Right organizations, the first video of which was called the Gay Agenda and was released in 1992.

I never hear this referenced in the gay community. In fact, many LGBTQ+ individuals are living out very normal lives; working, participating in their communities, raising families, etc. They all share different political and religious opinions. Some are active in organizations fighting for equal rights, others do not participate at all.

There's nothing wrong with hanging a flag and raising awareness. It's an opportunity to have a conversation. If you see the flag flying, and disagree, then have a conversation with your family and discuss why you do or do not agree.

Like

Report

ItsTricky - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 11:50 a.m.

So the 10 Commandments have been removed from many city and state buildings around the country but it's somehow ok the fly pride flags on the city's Main Street? How? A double standard in my opinion.

7 Like

Report

LOU Montana - Pueblo, CO

June 11, 2019 11:49 a.m.

ReadMineFirst - Ft. Collins, CO

June 11, 2019 10:10 a.m.

@Lou Montana:

"I am."

Why?

I am not a fan of gayness but I respect their rights. How is it that they offend you?

1 Like

Report

Flipphone - , 00

June 11, 2019 11:41 a.m.

If a city is going to allow or Promote any one flag, then that city must allow, promote all flags.

1 Like

Report

Brave Sir Robin - San Diego, CA

June 11, 2019 11:35 a.m.

@traveler

"If you object to either of those two flags being flown on city flagpoles but not the rainbow flag then I admire your ability to doublethink."

Sure, go ahead...you're fine by me to put up any flag you want. Because unlike the conservative snowflakes, I don't get offended by inanimate pieces of fabric.

Like

Report

UtahBruin - Eagle Mountain, UT

June 11, 2019 11:31 a.m.

This is the dumbest thing ever. This should have never been done. Again, the LGBT community gets angry when people say anything about them at all, yet they want to draw attention to themselves with this flag thing.

Belnap said that this was "personal", so then plant a flag, plant 100 flags in your yard. Apparently it is also not political. Yet, the ACLU attorney wants to talk about legal rights if the flags were to be removed. Again, it's not political, but Belnap wants them around the entire city, which she had to apply for approval through the city, which the Mayor had to get involved in. This is what makes these things lame and ridiculous. The flags are not coming down, let it ride for them month. But how about we don't do anything like this again. And maybe the mayor needs to change the policy, and just have a set standard of flags that get flown. And if anyone has a disagreement with the set flags. Head on over to the city council meeting and voice your complaint, and then a vote takes place by the council. Problem solved. But lets let this draw attention to me or a group and whining about personal things go. It's time to grow up and be adults about it.

8 Like

Report

Pig Frizzle - Tremonton, UT

June 11, 2019 11:26 a.m.

The original meaning of the rainbow is of a promise God made to us, and pride is one of the things God warns us of and to avoid ... Now we have a rainbow pride flag trying to represent some peoples life choices ... hmmm, should make you think.

6 Like

Report

Impartial7 - DRAPER, UT

June 11, 2019 11:24 a.m.

This is a slippery slope. Next thing you know, others, with an "agenda", like Pioneer Day, will want to fly their flags too.

1 Like

Report

NoNamesAccepted - St. George, UT

June 11, 2019 10:45 a.m.

Whatever one thinks of these flags, just remember that by creating and maintaining a public forum, the city (government) must now treat all comers the same, and cannot discriminate based on viewpoint.

This means that a white pride or even white separatist, white nationalist, or white supremacy group must be given the same access as was given to the sexual minority community. Black Lives Matter and Sons of the Confederacy must be treated the same by the city.

It is one thing to have to let a highly offensive group--whether highly offensive to the left, to the right, or to both--march down city streets for a couple of hours for a parade. It is quite another to have to host their flags and message on city light poles for a full month.

Heber and every other city need to seriously rethink these policies before some truly nasty, offensive groups promote their agenda just as the sexual minorities have been allowed to do. Or even before someone, tired of being browbeaten by the sexual minorities, decides to make a point that would be hateful and divisive.

14 Like

Report

jimjr - Kaysville, UT

June 11, 2019 10:42 a.m.

The LGBTQ community recently wanted to fly the "Pride" flag with the American flag at all US embassies during gay pride month. Obama had approved this a few years ago and the Trump administration just nixed it and I agree. There comes a point that people stretch their agendas too far. Why would one minority have preference over another for this matter? it gets annoying after a while.

15 Like

Report

AZ Blue & Red - Gilbert, AZ

June 11, 2019 10:35 a.m.

So question: If another group paid for flags would Heber display them?

Here are some examples that I can think of

- 1) Star of David Flag
- 2) Hell's Angel Flag
- 3) Christian Cross Flag
- 4) Muslim Flag
- 5) Black Panther Flag
- 6) Angel Moroni Flag
- 7) Nazi Flag
- 8) Confederate Flag
- 9) Communist Flag
- 10) U of U Flag

- 11) BYU Flag
- 12) Wasatch High School Flag
- 13) Pro Choice Flag
- 14) Pro Life Flag
- 15) Etc., Etc., Etc.

I am not a fan of the rainbow flags. Nor would I be a fan of many of the ones I listed. I say we stick to the USA flag as this is what this nation stands for. Something we all need to take Pride in.

16 Like

Report

Traveller - Farmington, UT

June 11, 2019 10:31 a.m.

Since Heber City has made it clear they will accept any flags a private individual is willing to pay for, I look forward to flags depicting the Ten Commandments next month, and flags with swastikas the month after that.

If you object to either of those two flags being flown on city flagpoles but not the rainbow flag then I admire your ability to doublethink.

9 Like

Report

gatsby - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 10:28 a.m.

Personally, I'm saddened that the rainbow has been coopted by any particular community, and yesterday, I saw a truck with a flag in the back that was in the pattern of our national flag i.e. with a rectangle of stars in the upper left corner, but the red and white stripes had been changed to rainbow colors. it was offensive to me

That flag does not represent me or what I believe in and not only represents an agenda that I do not support in many cases, but seemed crass and mocking to me, of a symbol that should unite us, and for which many hundreds of thousands have given their lives for.

Naturally, those in the gay community, want to be equal with all other Americans, and should be treated fairly, and with decency and dignity. But it seems to me that this community also seeks to be seen as superior to others. And if one doesn't agree with their agenda, than one is a bigot, small minded, brainwashed, mislead and should be targeted, blackballed, not allowed to eat in certain restaurants, not allowed to wear clothing supporting candidates not of their choice etc.

11 Like

Report

Latter-daySaintForever - St. George, UT

June 11, 2019 10:15 a.m.

I think that this is very wrong. This does not represent the whole city of Heber. On city streets the only flags that should be flown are ones that represent the whole city. When you represent all the people it unites if you do not it will divide. I have no plans to visit Heber again. It was such a nice city.

12 Like

Report

Frozen Fractals - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 10:14 a.m.

@independent

"I can't think of a better way for the LGBTQ community to gain the "acceptance" they are perpetually seeking than to drop the rainbow flag and fly the American flag, to show solidarity with the rest of us in the idea that everyone is created equal."

If they need to gain acceptance then that would imply that things are still unequal.

6 Like

Report

Daedalus, Stephen - Arvada, CO

June 11, 2019 10:13 a.m.

A curious amount of passion over the bureaucratic decisions of a single small town in rural America.

Just to recap the bland details: Heber City, Utah granted a citizen's application under an existing "policy that lets residents apply to hang personalized banners on city lamp posts" for a month-long period.

Until these -particular- banners went up, Heber City residents were apparently unaware or simply did not care about their existing city banner policy.

The obvious solution for those Heber City residents who do not want to see this particular banner repeated is to demand their elected officials eliminate the policy that allows for the city hanging of 'personalized banners' for everybody and anybody, starting July 1. The mayor even acknowledges as much in the article.

But that does not seem to be what this is about, right?

3 Like

Report

Mc - West Jordan, UT

June 11, 2019 10:09 a.m.

"Some of the debate over the banners, Potter believes, might come down to how people define "pride." For some people, she says, the word may bring to mind the loud, flashy spectacle of a parade".

I define "pride" as "a feeling of satisfaction or happiness (either in oneself or on behalf of others) based on something that is well done." Rather than a parade, I think of accomplishments or traits that I would encourage my children or grandchildren to seek after.

Expressions of pride imply support and promotion.

While I believe in being kind and loving toward all people, no matter what their beliefs or behaviors, I can't celebrate a belief or practice that is contrary to my religious beliefs.

There is no science to support homosexual or transgender feelings. LGBT is a belief system which should be afforded the same rights as any religion, but not more rights. A government displaying gay pride flags appears to promote one belief over another and to celebrate something many of us cannot celebrate. I am not offended when individuals express gay pride. It's their right. Government policy should be neutral.

11 Like

Report

ReadMineFirst - Ft. Collins, CO

June 11, 2019 10:10 a.m.

@Lou Montana:

I am.

3 Like

Report

Eponymous Eggplant - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 10:05 a.m.

"A symbol that tries to remind people to be nice to each other is never political."

Any group that tacitly accepts hate crime hoaxes perpetrated on their behalf isn't being "nice." As just one recent example, I have yet to see the gay community broadly condemn the utterly unconscionable actions of Jussie Smollett, who attempted to smear conservatives and especially Trump supporters and was then let off the hook by a corrupt government.

As others have noted in this thread, when the rest of America begins to perceive the LGBT movement as patriotic defenders of equal justice, then tensions will subside. Instead, we see them attempting to tear down the pillars of western civilization. That's not "nice" and neither is their flag. Rather, it is purposefully divisive; even contentious.

13 Like

Report

Counter Intelligence - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 9:59 a.m.

@Brave Sir Robin

"A symbol that tries to remind people to be nice to each other is never political."

"Nice", of course - being defined as complete conformity to your politics and life outlook.

How convenient for you.

Are you "nice" to ex-gays? Politically non-complaint homosexuals? individuals who choose not to engage in your sexual activities?

The rainbow flag is endemic of the exclusive nature of social justice inclusivity

It is amazing at how quickly leftists devolve into everything they claim to abhor.

17 Like

Report

hcmrobin - Salt Lake, UT

June 11, 2019 9:51 a.m.

Religion teaches that pride, if not the worst of sins, is at least a catalyst for greater sin. It is man's worst and generally the most common trait. (women too). I'm trying to picture a nationally recognized month of humility. Or how about a month of gratitude for our freedom and liberty. Pride month often looks more like more tribal warfare, socially and politically divisive. We are thankfully at a point at which almost no one but the most ignorant and backward would say gay people and other minorities should not be treated with equality, love, respect and kindness and certainly not discriminated against. That is the country we live in. When people shout "bigotry" or "racism" at every event, those words become meaningless.

17 Like

Report

LOU Montana - Pueblo, CO

June 11, 2019 9:48 a.m.

Justiciaparatos - Salt Lake City, UT

"I think a lot of Heber citizens, will now be remembering the Mayor's decision come next election, and it won't be a favorable recollection."

Really?

"The flying these banners has not only offended many in the Heber area, but it has offended a lot of motorists who pass through Heber."

Who is offended?

Please tell us.

4 Like

Report

Tolstoy - salt lake, UT

June 11, 2019 9:44 a.m.

@counter

I was not aware there was an LGBTQ political party. please do tell us more.

4 Like

Report

blackattack - Orem, UT

June 11, 2019 9:39 a.m.

I agree that there are significant political overtones to the rainbow flag. If a school cannot hang the Ten Commandments from the argument that the state is favoring Judeo Christian religions, then hanging the rainbow flag is encroaching similar territory. LGBT people need more support, but let it happen from private residences.

There will likely be backlash from this. Groups will now seek to hang their flags to test the city council and may seek legal action, just as LGBT members have specifically sought out bakeries who will not make a cake for a gay marriage and brought legal action.

21 Like

Report

Al Thepal - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 9:38 a.m.

I'm not a huge fan of the term "pride" being used for the LGBT agenda. Why should anyone (gay, straight, or whatever) be "proud" of who they are sexually attracted to? It is just a part of who you are, and frankly a part of you that should be kept in your private life (again: gay, straight, or whatever).

However, it appears that the flags fit the city's policy and were paid for through private means. I don't see the problem with that, even if I don't fully agree with the message of the flags. As for if the city would allow Nazi or Confederate flags, I think they would use their judgement and deny those requests as those are pretty obviously inappropriate.

1 Like

Report

1covey - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 9:32 a.m.

Flags are used to boost morale, show solidarity and promote the cause of the group whose flag it is. As to the latter, it remains to be seen how far the group will go to promote its' cause. Will it go so far as to create conflict ? Will it try to overpower and dominate others of differing beliefs ? Or will it be live and let live ?The future looks foreboding, based on the actions of some, currently who seem to believe it is a matter of all or nothing; us or them.

8 Like

Report

Brave Sir Robin - San Diego, CA

June 11, 2019 9:29 a.m.

@Counter Intelligence

"The rainbow flag is a political flag"

A symbol that tries to remind people to be nice to each other is never political.

8 Like

Report

ute alumni - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 9:24 a.m.

Go to SL libraries and the entry has a table promoting cross dressing and LGBTQ issues. Herriman claims they aren't responsible for theirs...., it's a county thing.

1 Like

Report

Bloodhound - Provo, UT

June 11, 2019 9:22 a.m.

I visited Heber recently and was shocked to see these. They doesn't represent the values of Heber to me. They represent the LGBT+ agenda.

22 Like

Report

Independent - Henderson, NV

June 11, 2019 9:16 a.m.

I can't think of a better way for the LGTBQ community to gain the "acceptance" they are perpetually seeking than to drop the rainbow flag and fly the American flag, to show solidarity with the rest of us in the idea that everyone is created equal.

20 Like

Report

TWild32 - Lehi, UT

June 11, 2019 9:15 a.m.

Hey Potter, guilt is from within. The light of Christ was given to know good from evil. Obey the obstinate feeling and change your ideals accordingly: Potter said. "But there's a feeling when you know you're not accepted, and when people look at you as a sinner or a deviant. It does something deep to a person's sense of identity and well-being and confidence."

11 Like

Report

L White - Springville, UT

June 11, 2019 9:15 a.m.

In Utah, one of our traditions is to cherish virtue. In fact, the words, "truth" and "virtue" are linked tightly together. Those words describe the norms of the families in Utah. We speak the truth and we not only cherish virtue, but we guard it, and we defend it.

Enough with flying flags that would separate us into camps. Enough with shouts of discrimination because we will never accept the principles represented by that flag. It's time to stand for virtue on every street in America. That will offend some people, but it will protect our children from being told and taught principles that will destroy their peace and their happiness.

There was once a flag flown in America. "And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole."

That flag represented something. It stood for God, for religion, for freedom, for peace, for families. It was a flag that encouraged people to be better, to be honorable, to be respectors of the God that gave them breath. It stood for truth and virtue.

3 Like

Report

Shaun - Sandy, UT

June 11, 2019 9:11 a.m.

This was a bad idea just like displaying the Ten Commandments on public property is bad. The government should remain neutral otherwise the city will face lawsuits.

10 Like

Report

EscherEnigma - Ridgecrest, CA

June 11, 2019 9:10 a.m.

""I don't think people are necessarily outright mean," Potter said [...]"
... they just throw things at gay people and threaten them.

But not in a *mean* way or anything.

6 Like

Report

dmcvey - Los Angeles, CA

June 11, 2019 8:45 a.m.

Good for Potter. Whatever the outcome she is a brave and good citizen.

5 Like

Report

Counter Intelligence - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 8:44 a.m.

The rainbow flag is a political flag

Unless government is going to allow other political flags, they should not be endorsing a specific one.

26 Like

Report

cthulhu_fhtagn - Seattle, WA

June 11, 2019 8:42 a.m.

@Birdman1990

"all lives matter."

Apparently so much so that self-advocacy causes a knee-jerk reaction.

6 Like

Report

Justiciaparatodos - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 8:39 a.m.

The article states: "Mayor Kelleen Potter, who gave the Pride flags the official stamp of approval, said she's been surprised by the volume of feedback on the matter".

I think a lot of Heber citizens, will now be remembering the Mayor's decision come next election, and it won't be a favorable recollection.

The flying these banners has not only offended many in the Heber area, but it has offended a lot of motorists who pass through Heber.

20 Like

Report

Joe Hill - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 8:39 a.m.

the people that hung these flags followed the exact same process as any other group that request to hang flags and meet all the same requirements as any other group, Heber did the right thing by treating this group the same as any other group. I get that equality can feel like oppression to those that are used to being able to oppress others with impunity but it really is going to be all right.

5 Like

Report

Tekakaromatagi - Dammam, Saudi Arabia

June 11, 2019 8:39 a.m.

@UteFan60:

"The old patterns of hatred, misunderstandings, false religious rhetoric, and downright discrimination have been confronted and that fight continues. "

You have assumed an awful lot. Inherent in your statement is the assumption that moral beliefs are equivalent of hate and prejudice.

Please explain your reasoning.

Otherwise the rest of us will probably conclude that you are driven by your own phobias and intolerance rather than logic and reasoning.

14 Like

Report

Jacobiuntherus - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 8:32 a.m.

To InMyOpinionAlso - sandy, UT:

Thank you for expressing your opinion, so many people agree with you whole heartedly!

We are getting so tired of the constant bombardment of LGBTQ promotion - it only serves to divide people and not unify us at all. In fact, all this LGBTQ agenda promotion, just harms the LGBTQ cause in the eyes of the majority who want to be understanding and accepting, but it is starting to have the opposite effect.

Due to the divisiveness of the LGBTQ promotion, now I see groups now wanting to hold "straight pride" parades and weeks and so-forth. That movement will only intensify if this other stuff continues.

24 Like

Report

All American - Herriman, UT

June 11, 2019 8:31 a.m.

I don't understand why people prefer to classify themselves. Is it a need to be part of a tribe? A need to stand out from the crowd? A need to shove their differences in our faces? The only difference between LGBT people and everyone else is their sexual proclivity. Why would they want to be defined by just that? We know we all have sex but why the need to shout it to the world with a parade or a flag.

Let's get rid of all the classifications. We know we all have differences. Why must we continue to divide ourselves by our differences? Can't we just be humans or Americans or neighbors or friends?

22 Like

Report

Meckofahess - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 8:24 a.m.

@Utefan60:

What you say may be true for a minority percentage of the population but it is not true for the rest of us!

You are exaggerating the facts in a straw man attempt to spread a falsehood.

The sooner the LGBTQ community mellows out and stops putting their agenda in our faces the sooner people will be more accepting and less judgmental. Until then, we just want to promote the message that ALL PEOPLE MATTER and are important.

24 Like

Report

Sanefan - Wellsville, UT

June 11, 2019 7:58 a.m.

Man they opened up a 'can of worms' with that thoughtless, albeit benign act. Now ANY group can request the same and denial will probably cost the city a ton of money in litigation. There are a lot of groups out there that a city probably doesn't want to "support." Elected officials need to THINK every once in a while and not just "react." No issue with the flags but they should have been limited private rather than public areas.

17 Like

Report

Joe Hill - Salt Lake City, UT

June 11, 2019 7:40 a.m.

@zgomer

while I may agree that it would be silly for HOA's to ban American flags there is an important fundamental difference between a private organization such as an HOA and a public, city government.

11 Like

Report

Orson - Woods Cross, UT

June 11, 2019 7:38 a.m.

I always have proceeded under the wise notion that if the ACLU likes something, it is bad and wrong for America. Seems I am right again.

There are likely many people of strong religious faith in Heber City that do not want their town to become a publicity stunt promoting the gay agenda. But they have to be careful or gay people will call them bigots and shout them down in the public square. When you use loaded newly invented words like "homophobic" you can often silence the majority.

But I am glad to hear that at least a few folks in Heber are brave enough to stand up to the gay lobby and the ACLU and speak up for good and right.

5 Like

Report

dski - Herriman, UT

June 11, 2019 7:31 a.m.

It seems we as a society are selectively fine with certain issues and are contemptuous on others. Why are some people offended by the displaying of Old Glory is beyond me, yet the displaying of the LGBT flags are viewed as a sign of inclusion and tolerance. As a non-white minority, I would love to see flags celebrating the accomplishments of white men. But because it is politically incorrect, there will never be such recognition. What about the Mexican farm workers in the area, are they going to display the Mexican flags to show their support? That shows we are fooling ourselves by claiming that we are inclusive and tolerance of others. No we are not. We are very selective in our choices on who to support, especially the hot potato issues.

18 Like

Report

Rightasrain - Heber City, UT

June 11, 2019 7:12 a.m.

This does nothing good in Heber City. It has been a divider not a uniting force. They should have never gone up and now nobody dares touch the subject for fear of offending their neighbor. The Mayor was not the smartest when she made this decision.

26 Like

Report

J Thompson - SPRINGVILLE, UT

June 11, 2019 7:04 a.m.

To allow a group to hang flags from public property that calls attention to their sexual agenda when that sexual agenda is not recognized by the community as the community's norm, gives superior status to those who promote that agenda and fly their flags. That is inequality. For any city to emphasize that inequality is to deny all citizens equal protection under the law. If a flag is to be flown in our communities, let it be the Stars and Stripes that represent us all. Let those who beliefs and behavior differ, fly their flags on their own property. The Constitution guarantees them that right but the Constitution does not guarantee any group a superior role based on their person conduct or beliefs.

29 Like

Report

Birdman1990 - Mapleton, UT

June 11, 2019 7:03 a.m.

Straight pride, all lives matter.

14 Like

Report

AndrewWL - Denmark, 00

June 11, 2019 6:38 a.m.

"After coming out as gay in Heber City, Potter said her son experienced violence and verbal harassment, including people throwing things at him from cars and texting him threats and homophobic slurs." Nice. I am sure the folks of Heber think they are nice upstanding people too. I think I will postpone my visit until Heber arrives in the 21st century.

7 Like

Report

Utefan60 - , 00

June 11, 2019 6:16 a.m.

I find that they represent the changing of times. That is 100% true. The old patterns of hatred, misunderstandings, false religious rhetoric, and downright discrimination have been confronted and that fight continues.

Millenials, families, and even religious people are changing their preconceived notions. Millenials are not falling for the hatreds and bigotries that they find to be wrong.

Even Churches have changed. One time it was a "sin to be born gay". Then it was a "choice". Then that changed to an attraction that was labeled "same sex attraction". That continuing evolution has released many LGBTQ people from the chains of religious bigotry.

New civil rights are here. Marriage, no matter what anyone thinks is the law of the land. And it didn't challenge anyone's religious beliefs. Some didn't like it, but millions celebrated that members of their own families had a right that the rest of us took for granted.

A famous Utah celebrity recently attended the joyous wedding of her daughter to her new wife. Yes times are a changing! The fight to change those times has been rough and in some cases filled with abuse and even murder.

7 Like

Report

AlagnakLounger - Heber City, UT

June 11, 2019 5:52 a.m.

The ACLU is wrong. Individuals have every right to hand a flag in their own yards. It's protected by the First Amendment. However, they don't have a right to do so on public property. I'm not a fan of County Councilman Goode, but he's correct. Imagine how nuts the ACLU would be if the City allowed the LDS Church (err the Church of Jesus Christ) or the Republican Party to hand flags on the lamp posts.

27 Like

Report

Shuzzie53 - , 00

June 10, 2019 11:52 p.m.

There's a show on CNN called United Shades of America. Last week's episode was on gay people in SLC. Very interesting.

3 Like

Report

Seldom Seen Smith - Orcutt, CA

June 10, 2019 11:28 p.m.

People are falling all over themselves attempting to demonstrate they are hip to homosexuality*.

* - Are we still allowed to use that word, or is that likewise politically incorrect.

17 Like

Report

Henry Drummond - San Jose, CA

June 10, 2019 9:43 p.m.

The times they are a changing

6 Like

Report