

For immediate release

SUPPORTING THE 2ND ANNUAL PRIDE FESTIVAL? CHARLOTTESVILLE GIVES A THUMBS UP WHILE ALBEMARLE COUNTY STALLS

Local LGBTQ community members disappointed by the lack of County support

September 5, 2013, Charlottesville -- Tuesday night, the Charlottesville City Council issued a proclamation officially recognizing **September 14, 2013 as Pride Festival Day** in honor of the 2nd annual Charlottesville Pride Festival.

The next morning, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors discussed a motion to support a similar, though more watered down, resolution. The vote was split 3-3.

Explaining his reasons for voting against the resolution, Supervisor Ken Boyd equated the request for Pride Festival support to PETA wanting “an animal rights festival day or something. You know there could be no end to this if we go down this very slippery slope.”

He also argued, “I don’t want us to become just a bully pulpit.”

“We are extremely disappointed by the lack of support,” says Amy Sarah Marshall, president of the **Charlottesville Pride Community Network**. “And dismayed that our festival – the point of which is to bring visibility to an entire community of citizens in our area who exist as second-class citizens – doesn’t warrant support, symbolic though it may be, from the Board of Supervisors.”

The Charlottesville Pride organization, which represents members of the LGBTQ community throughout the area, requests that County residents write the Board of Supervisors with their response to the failed decision.

“Boyd thought that only one person wanted this resolution,” Marshall says. “I think if he was made aware of how many of his constituents believe that symbolic resolutions like this serve a valuable purpose, he might vote differently when this comes up again.”

For more information on the Pride Festival and the Cville Pride Community Network, visit cvillepride.org

Contact Amy Marshall for comments at amymarshall@cvillepride.org