

Beverly James

From: Tyler Prescott <tyler@upstatelgbt.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Laura Baker
Cc: Brian Aufmuth; Laura Baker; Kenneth Baxter; Sid Cates; Elizabeth Collins; Allan Hill; James Hoard; Thomas Hughes; Kristen Odom; William Pinkston; Joe Poore; Beverly James; James Wooten; WMeadows@greenvillecounty.org; DTripp@greenvillecounty.org; XNorris@greenvillecounty.org; JDill@greenvillecounty.org; MBarnes@greenvillecounty.org; SShaw@greenvillecounty.org; CHarrison@greenvillecounty.org; stantz@greenvillecounty.org; LSeman@greenvillecounty.org; EFant@greenvillecounty.org; LBallard@greenvillecounty.org; BKirven@greenvillecounty.org; Peggy.Phillip@hearst.com; Anderson Road Branch Account; Dru Hill; Augusta Road Branch Account; Staci Sawtelle; Berea Branch Account; Andy Dykes; Five Forks Branch Account; Amy Grubbs; Fountain Inn Branch Account; Jennifer Mehalick; Greer Branch Account; Stephanie Maters; Main Circulation; Brian Morrison; Mauldin Branch Account; Michael Evans; Pelham Road Branch Account; Elizabeth Hays; Simpsonville Branch Account; Danielle Thornton; Taylors Branch Account; Beth Atwood; Travelers Rest Branch Account; Nathan Schmaltz; Josh Malkin; Caroline Caldwell
Subject: Re: PRIDE Displays

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Hello Laura et al,

Thank you for your email. I continue to welcome a public statement from the Board Chair or the Executive Director on this matter. I believe you when you say the full board was not consulted on this matter. Consequently, I would also welcome further clarity from the board Vice Chair who told the [Greenville News he supported the actions of the board](#). Finally, if the board Chair or Vice Chair acted alone, I believe the community should know if this violated the board's policies.

I thank you for your action here and while it will certainly be a shame to lose you from the Greenville County Library System Board of Trustees, I make a renewed call to fill your seat with someone from the LGBT+ community. I welcome Greenville County Council to reach out to myself or Caroline Caldwell for recommendations. We have collected a handful of names, many of whom have already applied or previously applied for seats who are passionate about GCLS, want to make sure it thrives and remains a gateway of knowledge and culture for *everyone* in Greenville County.

Respectfully,



Tyler Prescott (he/him/his)

CEO | Upstate LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce

☎ [413-563-6737](tel:413-563-6737) ✉ tyler@upstatelgbt.org

www.upstatelgbt.org



On Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 3:59 PM Laura Baker <[redacted]> wrote:
July 5, 2022

To: GCLS Board, GCLS Staff, Greenville County Council, Caroline Caldwell, Tyler Prescott, Josh Malkin
Cc: Peggy Phillip
RE: PRIDE Displays

I held out hope that the GCLS Executive Director and/or the board chair would issue a statement correcting the record about the dismantling and reinstallation of PRIDE displays in the GCLS on June 22nd. Since a statement is apparently not forthcoming, here is mine:

1. The board did not make a decision to remove PRIDE displays. Attributing the action to the board is a lie.

I was not consulted. I had NO voice in this decision. Who made the decision? Either the Executive Director and/or the board chair. The lack of a response from either the Executive Director or the board chair to correct the misrepresentation that this was a board decision is appalling.

2. The silence from the board surrounding the decision to first remove and then reinstall the displays is untenable.

3. Real harm has been done to members of our community, especially members within the GCLS. The harm needs to be addressed. The staff need to be supported.

4. The board is feckless and dysfunctional. It mostly works well when there is no discord. It crumbles in the face of potential controversy. Greenville County Library system deserves a functioning and responsive board. Board members need meaningful and recurring training.

5. I am calling for the Executive Director and the board chair to step down. We need new leadership that is responsive and courageous in the face of hatred and bigotry.

6. I am calling for the full implementation of measures outlined in "A Joint Statement on the Removal of LGBTQ+ Displays in Greenville County Libraries" signed by Caroline Caldwell, Tyler Prescott and Josh Malkin (attached), including the call to County Council to commit to appointing an LGBTQ+ person to the board of trustees upon the next board seat opening.

7. I no longer trust the people I am supposed to work with. I will not continue to serve on a board that is not doing its job, is not responsive to the entire community, and is not transparent. I resign immediately so an LGBTQ+ person can be appointed.

Laura Baker
Former GCLS Board Member



Tyler Prescott (he/him/his)

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