

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful inaugural Canby Independence Day celebration we had in Canby! Thank you to all who attended and to all the volunteers for their hard work. It exceeded my expectations.

During the parade there was an entry that was flying the Confederate Flag. Many were offended by this and question why the city would allow this to happen. I was made aware of this after the conclusion of the parade.

Statements, whether through the use of words, actions, symbols, or in any other form made under the protection of the First Amendment expressing hatred or intolerance in any form are neither supported nor endorsed by the officials of the City of Canby, nor do they reflect the opinions or attitudes of the City. These do not reflect my personal values or my family's values and beliefs.

Many of you have expressed concern of this float in the parade; many have equated this as the city's support and/or endorsement of this organization. It is not. We are bound to a groups' First Amendment right to free speech. We would not want to deny any person or group their right to this freedom. If we banned them or any group from the parade, we could be subject to legal action.

The City of Canby supports no statement, symbol, action, or activity based on race, sex, age, disability, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristic that would in any way seek to deprive any person of their fundamental rights. Such a right is granted under the constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Oregon.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional comments and concerns at hodsonb@ci.canby.or.us.

God Bless,

Mayor Brian Hodson

Hello,

My name is Jewel Kallstrom, I live here in Canby with my husband and two young daughters.

The 4th of July parade has always been a highlight of Canby events for my family. This year, the newly renamed Canby Independence Day celebration underwent lots of changes. The earlier parade time provided respite from the afternoon heat, and Waite Park was a perfectly shaded location to enjoy the various activities. However, during the parade, the block on which my family stood fell silent as a float representing the Sons of Confederate Veterans, including the confederate flag, rolled by. The silence spoke volumes.

I would like to separate this conversation from the context of the right to freedom of speech. I do not propose the city ban this group and their right to free speech; rather, I raise concern that the 4th of July parade acts as a representation of our town, and the confederate flag does not represent the Canby we know and love.

The first amendment allows individuals to express themselves without interference or constraint by the government. It's a right I exercise, and will defend on behalf of others at all times. That right, however, does not serve to simply grant entrance of an individual or group into a small town parade which is intended, presumably, to promote community spirit and civic pride.

The confederate flag represents oppression and exclusion; it flies in the face of a celebration of independence. It's worth noting that 2015 and 2016 marked a shift in the United States' use of the symbol. Given the oppressive history it signifies, the confederate emblem has been removed from the US capitol as well as many state capitols - even southern states that recognize the Union Army as part of their rich history have chosen not to display the flag.

In the interest of being part of the solution, I'd like to share what I believe are valid starting-points to address this in the future:

- First, in preparing to attend this meeting tonight, I reviewed the notes and video from the July 6th City Council meeting. I was heartened by watching Sarah Spoon's statement and I fully support her proposal that the City of Canby pass a resolution which disavows the public display of symbols and flags that signify hate or lack of tolerance toward any and all federally protected groups.
- Additionally, through a cursory review of other city and county event organization materials, I have compiled just a few examples of text used in parade standards and rules. The one I'll share with you now is from the City of Keizer, Chamber of Commerce and it's parade committee, and there are a couple of others in the document I'll leave with you. The text reads: "All entries must be in good taste and promote the goal of community spirit and civic pride. No entry shall display material offensive or discriminatory to any race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or marital status."

Others:

"An entry may not include any image or content that includes nudity, profanity, lewdness, illegal drugs, violence, obscenity, hate, racism, or that is vulgar or sexually explicit, insulting or

offensive to any ethnic, religious, political or other identifiable group or individual, as determined by a parade official."

"...reserves the right for parade officials to remove an entry at any time if the official observes that the entry is offensive, in poor taste or the entrants are confrontational."

- Lastly, in the absence of implementation of changes that would prevent these symbols from appearing in Canby sanctioned events, I would request that a finalized list of participants be publicized some days prior to the event itself, so that other groups, elected officials, and small businesses may make knowledgeable decisions about their participation, and residents like myself may make informed decisions about their and their family's attendance.

The current political and cultural climate in the US is at a place where silence is akin to complicity. Canby residents know that our town is warm, welcoming, inclusive, and values diversity; let's take action to ensure that's the image we present.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erik Ernst <scvoregon@gmail.com>

Date: July 9, 2016 at 9:27:16 PM PDT

To: <hodsonb@ci.canby.or.us>, <dalet@ci.canby.or.us>, <rochat@ci.canby.or.us>, <hensleyt@ci.canby.or.us>, <parkerg@ci.canby.or.us>, <colemanc@ci.canby.or.us>, <heidtt@ci.canby.or.us>

Subject: Sons of Confederate Veterans

Mr. Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Pacific NW Division and SCV Camp 458 of Portland, OR. We would like to thank you for allowing us to participate in the Canby Independence Day Parade.

It has come to our attention that a small, yet vocal minority of citizens have voiced some concern about our organization's participation in the Parade. This is somewhat concerning for us to hear. The Sons of Confederate Veterans is a honorable historic Veterans organization that has been around since 1896. We are a registered 501c3 non profit group, who's sole purpose is to; honor and defend the Confederate Soldier. We are vehemently anti-racist and do not allow any type of hate or hate speech.

Our usage of the Confederate Battle Flag and other Confederate National and Regimental Flags is a vital component in our mission to expose the truth about the Confederate Soldier and his reasons for defending his home State from invasion.

We would ask that you please do some research into who we are and what we stand for before you make any harsh statements against what we stand for. Please visit our national organizations website for all the information needed for making a sound judgment. www.scv.org

Our organization honors all American Veterans from all wars this great country has been involved in. We spend countless hours doing cemetery cleanups, grave marker dedications, Civil War educational classes, battlefield preservation, living history events, monument cleanups, and public interaction and recruiting events. We are also nationally recognized by all branches of the United States Armed Forces with our JR. ROTC H.L. Hunley Award.

It is important to note that the United States passed a law in 1958 giving Confederate Veterans the same rights and benefits as all other United States Veterans:

"U.S. Public Law 85-425: Sec. 410 Approved 23 May 1958

(US Statutes at Large Volume 72, Part 1, Page 133-134)

The Administrator shall pay to each person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War a monthly pension in the same amounts and subject to the same conditions as would have been applicable to such person under the laws in effect on December 31, 1957, if his service in such forces had been service in the military or naval forces of the United States."

As a show of good faith, we would like to invite you to attend our upcoming Camp meeting on July 30th. Getting a chance to meet some of our members and see for yourself exactly who we are

and what we do, would be good for both you and the great city of Canby. Please email me for details on where we will be meeting.

It is important for you to know that from our first hand experience, our presence was overwhelmingly received with positive feedback and applause from most everyone we passed in the Parade. Obviously a vocal minority of people chose to voice their opinion against us being there, but I think that if you were to take a poll of all attendees of the Parade, you would find over 80% of them in support of us. Please take this into consideration, since you are an elected official.

Again, we thank you for putting on such a wonderful Parade and allowing us to participate in it. We are looking forward to next year and ask you for your support in honoring our Veterans.

Thank You,

Commander Ernst

Sons of Confederate Veterans

Pacific NW Division
scvoregon@gmail.com

RESOLUTION NO. 1246

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO MESSAGES OF HATE

WHEREAS, the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Oregon guarantee the right of the People to engage in First Amendment protected activities; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the City of Canby Charter, each Official of the City of Canby takes an oath affirming support of the Constitutions and Laws of the United States, the State Of Oregon, and the City of Canby; and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to foster a culture of mutual understanding and appreciation for the inherent value of all human life ~~tolerance~~ within ~~the~~our community for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristic; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Canby wishes to exercise their ~~cities'~~ right to speak out ~~free speech~~ in support of a culture of respect for all people ~~tolerance within the community for all~~; and

WHEREAS, in order to foster a culture of appreciation for the inherent value of all human life ~~tolerance~~ within ~~our~~the community ~~for all persons~~, the City Council wishes to express their opposition to the use of statements, symbols, actions, or activities that would convey messages of hatred, foster intolerance, or in any way seek to deprive any person of their fundamental rights.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Canby as follows:

1. The City Council supports and endorses a culture of appreciation for the inherent value of all human life and the promotion of socially acceptable behavior ~~of tolerance~~ within the community ~~for~~toward all persons regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristic.
2. Statements, whether through the use of words, action, symbols or in any other form expressing hatred or devaluing any human life ~~intolerance~~ are neither supported nor endorsed by the City Council of the City of Canby.
- 3.—The City Council expressly ~~forbids and~~ condemns and rejects any ~~intolerant~~ statement made at any city sponsored event that devalues human life that is not afforded protection as free speech under the first amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Oregon.
- 4.3. The Canby City Council recognizes and embraces our responsibility to be vigilant in defense of the rights of all people, proactive in our attempts to be a welcoming community for all people looking for a better life, and steadfast and vigorous in condemning all forms of unconstitutional infringements ~~intolerance~~.

This resolution shall take effect July 12, 2016.

ADOPTED this 12th day of July 2016, by the Canby City Council.

Brian Hodson

Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly Scheafer, MMC

City Recorder