

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRECKSVILLE

September 2, 2025

HELD _____

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Call to Order

8:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Council President Caruso, Council Vice President Savage, Council Member Bender, Council Member Ganim, Council Member Jantzen, Council Member Koepke.

Also Present: Mayor D. Kingston, Law Director D. Matty, Assistant Law Director L. Sabol, Engineer G. Wise, Finance Director L. Starosta, Fire Chief M. Bender, Police Chief Korinek, Purchasing Director M. Bartkiewicz, CBO S. Packard, Service Director J. Kickel, Media Specialist Chase XXX, Clerk T. Tabor.

Absent: Stucky.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval August 19, 2025 City Council Minutes

Motion made by Caruso, Seconded by Savage.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

Voting Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Unfinished Business

New Business

- FIN 1.** ORD 5804 - an Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 5758, making appropriations for current expenses of the City of Brecksville during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, making necessary appropriation and revenue adjustments.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Ordinance 5804.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

- LEG 2.** ORD. 5805- an Ordinance enacting and adopting a Supplement to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Brecksville.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.

Voting Nay: None.

Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Ordinance 5805.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

Voting Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

- LEG 3.** ORD. 5806 - an Ordinance enacting and adding a new Section 1314.24 to the Building Code to include a Service Fee for processing transactions by electronic means.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.

Voting Nay: None.

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Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Ordinance 5804.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.
Voting Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

FIN 4. RES. 5705 - Approval of a Resolution Making Necessary Transfers Between Certain Funds for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.
Voting Nay: None.
Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Resolution 5705.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.
Voting Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

FIN 5. RES. 5706 - a Resolution authorizing the execution of a Then and Now Certificate by the Fiscal Officer and payment of amount due; and declaring an emergency.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.
Voting Nay: None.
Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Resolution 5706.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.
Voting Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

FIN 6. RES. 5707 - a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a payment processing agreement with CSG Forte Payments;Inc.

Motion for suspension made by Ganim, Seconded by Koepke.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke.
Voting Nay: None.
Motion by Bender, seconded by Savage to pass Resolution 5707.
Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.
Voting Nay: None.
Abstain: None.
MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Report of Council Representatives and Committees

Board of Zoning Appeals, Council Member Caruso said, on behalf of Council Member Stucky there are no items to bring forth for Council. The next meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals will be September 8th at 7:30 PM.

Planning Commission Council Member Caruso said the next meeting of the Planning Commission will be September 4th at 7:00 PM

From the August 21st Planning Commission Meeting the Planning Commission recommended approval of the following items:

Truenorth Corp. - Shell Gas Station 8952 Brecksville Rd. Approval to reface 16.92 sq. ft. of a 33.84 sq. ft. two-sided permanent, internally illuminated, ground, identification sign for the Shell Gas Station at 8952 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH, described in the application dated 7/29/25, and the drawing by Federal Heath Sign Company, contingent on City Council's approval of the following deviations:
• A deviation from Section 1187 .09(c) a limit of a 30 sq. ft. maximum single face area for a ground identification sign to allow 33.84 sq. ft.

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• A deviation from Section 1187 .07(1) prohibition of "changeable copy signs" to allow a ground sign with changeable prices on it.

Motion made by Caruso, Seconded by Savage.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Front Yard Setback 9118 Highland Dr. - Establish and recommend to City Council a Front Yard Setback of approximately 195.0' for the installation of a singlefamily dwelling located at 9118 Highland Drive, Brecksville, Ohio, Permanent Parcel Number 60132006, as described in the application dated July 1, 2025, and submitted plans by RM KOLE & Assoc. Corp.

Motion made by Caruso, Seconded by Savage.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Recreation Commission: Council Member Ganim reported the next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be September 22nd at 7:00 PM

Human Services Advisory Board: Council Member Koepke said the next meeting of the Human Services Advisory Board will be September 9th at 3:00 PM

Reports of Council Committees:

Safety Service Committee: Council Member Koepke reported the Committee met earlier and has one item for Council consideration.

Fire Department - Recommend to Council approval of a motion to increase blanket purchase order no. 20259501 in the amount of \$4,000 for cellular services for the Fire Department. Account #2900260-29550

Motion made by Koepke, Seconded by Ganim.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

For Streets & Sidewalks Council Member Ganim reported the Committee met earlier and has one item for Council consideration.

2025 Concrete Supplies - Approval of an increase to blanket purchase order No. 20256911 in the amount of \$8,000.00 for concrete materials and supplies. Account #2020410-26130.

Motion made by Ganim Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Utilities Committee Council Member Ganim reported the Committee met earlier and has no items for Council consideration. Council Member Ganim reported during construction at Kids Quarters a water line was hit. Tony Graham, Service Department workers Matt Salsbury and Devin Gerber for their assistance in getting the water leak minimized and allow construction to continue.

Buildings & Grounds - Council Member Jantzen reported the Committee met earlier and has three items for Council consideration.

Fall Tree Order - Approval of a motion authorizing the purchase of 58 trees in the amount of \$10,717.00 for fall planting. Account # 2520530 22010

Motion made by Jantzen Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

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MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Service Department Kitchen and Office Repairs and Upgrades -Approval of a motion authorizing a blanket vendor purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for various vendors for repairs and upgrades to the Services Garage kitchen, Foreman's Office, and Dispatch Office, and authorization for the expenditure of \$6,366.71 for the purchase of cabinetry from Home Depot. Account # C4900170-32020. Project ID BI250007

Motion made by Jantzen, Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Pool Maintenance -Approval of an increase to purchase order #20255711 in the amount of \$3,600.00 for maintenance to the UV system used by the Recreation Department. Account # 2400720-26010.

Motion made by Jantzen Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

For the Legislation Committee Council Member Bender reported the Committee met earlier and has no items for Council consideration.

For the Finance Committee Council Member Savage reported the Committee met earlier and has three items for Council consideration.

Utility Providers: Recommend to Council approval of a motion to increase Blanket Purchase Order No. 20259624 in the amount of \$2,500 for water and sewer utilities, Blanket Purchase Order No. 20259622 in the amount of \$14,000 for natural gas utilities, and Blanket Purchase Order No. 20259623 in the amount of \$30,000 for electric utilities

Motion made by Savage Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Fireworks: Approval of a motion accepting the proposal and approve purchase requisitions for American Fireworks to provide fireworks displays for the City's Homedays and Tree Lighting Events in 2026 for \$41,000, in 2027 for \$41,000, and in 2028 for \$43,050. Account #1100150 - 24030

Motion made by Savage Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Move to approve the payment of monthly professional bills as follows:

Professional Bills -Motion to approve the payment of monthly professional bills - Matty, Henrikson & Greve LLC \$19,250.83, Kulchystsky Architecys, LLC \$63.75, William Logan \$4,000.00, Mary Hanna, Esq. \$700.00, Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. \$21,181.14, Sixmo \$1,775.00 , Daniels 7 Rhodes, LLC \$1,377.50 Total of all Invoices \$48,348.22.

Motion made by Savage Seconded by Koepke.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.

Reports of Department Directors

Reports of Department Directors: No Report.

Director of Law, No Report.

Engineer, No Report.

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Director of Finance, No Report.

Chief Building Official: No Report.

Director of Human Services, Dr. Paciorek said Shred Day Event will take place on September 27th. Food Pantry donations will be accepted. Paper products are requested this year.

Director of Service, No Report.

Director of Purchasing, No Report.

Chief of Police Department, Police Chief Korinek thanked everyone that assisted with the search for the missing child on Saturday. Police and Fire, Fire Chief Bender for his assistance. Seven Hills sent Officers. The City of Independence sent drones, K-9 Officer and Police Officers.

Chief of Fire Department,

Report of the Mayor

Mayor Kingston said the Fire Department Clambake will be held on September 6th from 6:00 PM - Midnight, contact the Fire Department for tickets.

The Safety Fair and Touch a Truck event will take place October 5th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Discussion

1:50:20

1. 8:20 PM Marissa Miruglotta Broadview Rd. Hi, good evening everybody. Can you hear me? Okay. Yep. Wonderful. Thank you for having me. My name is Dr. Marissa Merlata. Miruglotta I am currently a resident of Broadview Heights, but I am here today to speak on behalf of the board of BBH Pride. I'm their currently their community outreach chair. Our address is 8803 Brecksville Road, Suite 7139, 44141.

I'm here to address Mayor Kingston and the Brecksville City Council members. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, BBH Pride has dedicated the past three years to representing, serving, and advocating for the LGBTQ plus members of this community. Despite our reputation for outstanding education and training, support groups, scholarship programs, and hosting three well-attended, peaceful, family-friendly pride fests, we were disappointed to hear our city leadership blindly believe falsehoods and the untrue, villainizing narrative spread by Miss Hillary Jackson and the Cuyahoga County Moms for Liberty. The city's decision to apologize for our supposed behavior without any substantiated evidence of such actions was not only misleading but also offensive to our organization, its supporters, and us as board members. The peaceful demonstration on August 16th was not an organized BBH pride event. We are registered as an advocacy group, not an activist group. LGBTQ plus residents, our supporters, and even our board members are free to exercise their constitutional right to protest without our organization being inextricably tied. We strongly encourage City Council and the Mayor's office to consider conducting an independent investigation into claims such as this prior to making biased remarks on the record in a city council meeting. Furthermore, we, the board of BBH Pride, are requesting a formal apology from City Council and the Mayor's office for unjustly maligning our organization with the defamatory remarks based on the unverified statements of Miss Jackson and Moms for Liberty. It's crucial that we uphold the integrity of community dialogue by seeking evidence or accounts from all parties present that could have clarified these unfounded claims. A simple quote indicating that you would be speaking to the library was warranted and we still strongly encourage you to speak with them as a responsible course of action. We hope to move forward from this misstep and continue a cordial and cooperative working relationship with the city of Brecksville for the benefit of all of its residents. Thank you very much for your time this evening. Thank you.

1:53:11

2. 8:23 PM Sarah Kolick, N. Windsor, Westlake Good evening, Council. My name is Sarah Kolic and I was one of the attendees of the library sit in on August 16th. I am a proud bisexual attorney licensed in nine jurisdictions including the state of Ohio. Now, I participated in the sit in on August 16th because I believe as an attorney, my duty to uphold my oath to the US Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the other jurisdictions where I practice, extends beyond the courtroom. So, when I heard Moms for Liberty would be hosting an event at the Brecksville Library, I knew it was necessary for me to exercise my constitutional right to free speech. You see, Moms for Liberty is a group that advocates for book bans, the eraser

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of LGBTQ people from school curriculums, and just a general blindness to the historic and current realities facing black, indigenous, and other communities of color in our country. Through their advocacy work in Bookman's, Moms for Liberty sends the dangerous message to our kids that there's something intrinsically wrong with them if they think, look, love, or identify in a way that a community deems is different. So, let me reiterate once again, as pictures will show, as testimony will show, the event was peaceful and representative of what I believe a healthy democracy should look like, where two sides on the opposite end of the political spectrum can coexist in a public space such as a library and both have the opportunity to express their views. Now, at the invitation of one of the Moms for Liberties attendees to join the event, about four of us, I believe it was four, entered that room where they were having their event again after receiving an invitation. At no time were we asked to

leave otherwise we would have out of respect. In the event, organizers or someone even brought in additional chairs for us. Now, as photographs will show, I did sit with my back towards the speakers. You see, my first amendment professor at Smith College instilled in me the value of respecting every person's constitutional right to free speech while also teaching me how to exercise my own. This means I allow someone to speak while turning my back to convey my disapproval. Now, there have been some pretty vicious accusations in Brecksville and your community that I was reading a pornographic novel in the presence of children. So, I decided to bring the book that I brought to the library this day. And big surprise, it's not pornographic. It's George Tay. It rhymes with Ta. And if we have any Star Trek fans here, you'll recognize Mr. Sulu as the author of this book. Now, I'm a feminist attorney and I represent victims of revenge and child pornography as part of my job. And I take particular

offense to um the defamatory lie that I was reading pornography on August 16th. After all, I know that porn hurts women. These false and defamatory lies of me reading pornographic materials are old tactics used by bigots who have to resort to lies about the LGBTQ community in order to support their baseless argument that just because I love differently and have a different identify. I somehow pose a threat to children. If Mr. Sulu, Mr. Spock, and friends taught me anything in all those Star Trek episodes I watched, it was to embrace infinite diversity and infinite combination. If you read Mr. Take's book, you'll learn of the vision that Star Trek creator Gene Rodenberry had. Mind you, Gene Rodenberry's episode of Star Trek was also censored for showing an interracial kiss back in '68. But that vision is one of a future where people of every background, including those from different planets, are able to see past their differences and see those differences as strengths that make us all better. Where those who love and identify in ways that we consider and label as different are not demonized, but embraced by communities. for those who love an idea where knowledge and logic in science prevail over blindness emotional blindness that gives way to places that fears I sincerely hope that my words today will one day usher in such a future where a book read by a young woman in a public setting doesn't lead for baseless cause for the thought police to investigate her supposed sexual deviant unfortunately I fear we have a long way to go in achieving that future but I'll end by wishing you all to live long and prosper in spite of our differences. Thank you.

1:57:36

3. 8:27 PM Cassandra Eckerman, My name is Cassandra Eckerman. I live on 9546 Fitzwater Road. My pronouns are she her and I am a board member for BBH Pride. Tonight I'm reading a statement from our BBH Pride president Jennifer Speer who resides on Glen Coe Drive in Brecksville. since she could not be here. Good evening, Mayor. Good evening, Council, Mayor, pride supporters, and those from other groups that participated in the library demonstration. It is very difficult for me to miss this meeting. My husband and I planned a trip to Europe over a year ago, and I thought seriously, you know, contemplating cancelling to support my team tonight. And in the end, let's see. And in that end, I would not allow radical misinformation to dictate our lives, and we won't do that. For more than three years, we have asked most of the Council Members to meet, have meaningful dialogue, and to show our LGBTQ plus residents and youth your support by attending our events. Invitations are made regularly to all of you for workshops and for Pridefest. Thank you to the one Council Member who responds and shows up. BBH Pride is an advocacy group. We work tirelessly to become trained so that we can educate. To date, we have held nine workshops with four more planned in the coming months. We regularly received requests from businesses and organizations to for trainings. On several occasions, we have offered inclusivity training to this Council as well. We engage physicians, educators, clergy, mental health experts for our workshops. We provide scholarships and work to make the youth understand their value in our beautiful city.

We offer a rare professional I'm sorry. We offer a free I'm nervous. I'm sorry. I don't know if you can tell. Council President Caruso: You're fine.

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We offer a free professionally facilitated monthly support group. I cannot count the number of calls, text messages, and emails either asking for our help in guiding parents as their loved ones come out or being thanked for our compassion and support in their journey. We are all of those things, but we are not an activist group. We received four separate requests asking us to protest Moms for Liberty. To which I responded, BBH Pride does not organize protests.

Finally, someone from outside of our community asked if they could post it within our group. And my answer was, you can post it only if this is a quiet, peaceful, sit-in. We also would never stand in the way of our supporters exercising their constitutional right to assemble or advocate for themselves. Their voices matter in our community. The event graphic shared with me for the Moms for Liberty event mentioned absolutely nothing about it being a child story hour. Nothing. There were very few children in attendance and yes, campaigning for their cause and their candidates was the main event. The day came and went with zero conflict. Not a little, zero. The library thanked everyone for their respectful comments present. Sorry. Imagine our surprise when we heard Miss Jackson's fabricated claims and even more Council responding to her unfounded claims with apologies and shaming our group with no attempts to pursue the truth. You inferred that we, many of us concerned, loving parents just like you, frightened children and yelled at families. This is so appalling and untrue. Not one Council Member or you yourself, Mr. Mayor, reached out to anybody on our board for clarification or to hear our perspective and we are profoundly disappointed. Did any of you contact the library to inquire? We know where they stand. They stand on the truth and they stand for allowing people their constitutional right to assemble. Yet, Miss Jackson and Moms for Liberty is shaming our beloved library. And you cannot possibly support that. Legal Counsel has been retained. Miss Jackson has been served to cease and desist documents. The outright lies will not sully our reputation or mission. We will continue to try to work together with this Council towards a goal that supports our residents and hinders no one. However, we respectfully ask and feel that we deserve an apology. Then hopefully we can continue to move forward. It's never a better time to discuss inclusivity training for all the leaders in Brecksville. Even Mayor Hruby told us that it was badly needed. Our wonderful, hardworking team members Our work has value and is born of selfless love and dedication. To our supporters and those speaking tonight, I am deeply apologetic for not being here to stand beside you, but I am so grateful to each of you, each and every one of you. Thank you.

2:03:41

4. 8:33 PM Janice Lukas, Winding Way.

Good evening, Mayor Kingston and Council members and guests. My name is Janice Lucas and I'm a resident of Brecksville. I live on Winding Way. Since the last Brecksville City Council meeting, I've been researching the groups who admitted involvement at the Cuyahoga County Library, Brecksville branch library book reading. What I learned may clarify what happened at the nationwide "See You at the Library" event featuring Brave Books. Brave Books is a

Christian-based company that publishes biblically based family values literature. It was founded by ophthalmologist Dr. Trent Talbot who when starting his own family was appalled at the amount of inappropriate children's materials on the market. He collaborated with authors to start the brave book series in 2021. One of which was actor Kirk Cameron. This was the genesis of "See you at the Library" book readings. These were held at public libraries, not school district libraries. The director of the American Library Association at the time gave tips on how to block Cameron's program events. It seems the ALA didn't believe in the First Amendment. Cameron went on to hold successful events after his attorney proved the ALA's violation of law. I have a few points to make all using the text of BBH Pride's statement regarding "Mom's for Liberty" Library event which they came out after the event and it cites their justifications for the protest. First, this was not a "Mom's for Liberty" library event. It was a "See you at the Library" brave books event. "Moms for Liberty" has partnered with Brave Books as the local contact to secure locations and presenters for book reading. Not shocking. They share similar values. Who is "Moms for Liberty?" In a video, one of the founders says they are for faith, family, and freedom. During the COVID lockdown, she and other moms saw some of the destructive curricula being taught and decided to start grassroots movements to address divisive racial and gender lessons and government overreach in schools. Their website says they are dedicated to fighting for America by quote "Unifying, educating, and empowering parents to defend parental rights at schoolboard meetings and all levels of government unquote. They "recognize the fundamental rights of parents to advocate for their children's upbringing." Second, who's BBH Pride? Well, from their website, "Our mission is to

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promote awareness, instill acceptance, promote inclusiveness, and foster a welcoming community for all LGBTQ plus individuals. BBH Pride is composed of citizens who live and or work in the cities of Brecksville and Broadview Heights". They have pictured their board of directors, a monthly task force meeting schedule, their my bimonthly general meetings at Brecksville United Methodist Church, and there's the list of committees, " all of which are accepting new members," unquote. That seems inconsistent with their library defense statement, which said, "In fact, we do not even have a general membership." So, how do you have a general membership meeting with no general membership? Quote number three from the pride statement is quote, "It's widely known that Moms for Liberty events are often protested. We have also been told that supporters of Brecksville Library demonstrated due to the popular practice of moms employing they employ regarding book bans. So this brings me to those who say that Moms for Liberty is a designated hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. In 1971, the SPLC was a public interest law firm that defended poor southern people very effectively in fighting racism. They later switched to a fundraising company, fired the founder for sexism and racism in the workplace, and went mainstream targeting Christian groups who many do not belong on their heat map. SPLC no longer is a truthful, unbiased arbiter of hate groups. Those opposing Moms for Liberty use this as a political cudgel to silence them. Moms for Liberty have the right as parents to ask that inappropriate books be removed from schools and school libraries, not public libraries. These books contain sexually explicit diagrams, content beyond a child's comprehension, and sometimes vulgar passages that can't be read at schoolboard meetings. BBH Pride from the same statement, Moms for Liberty was the only political group there. Well, the organization Red Wine and Blues founder admits on a Facebook video they had members in attendance at the protest. Who is Red Wine and Blue? Their website wasn't clear with the mission, but they're definitely political. Their founder from Shaker Heights said she's been in politics since she was nine years old. The website says they are quote a grassroots community of diverse suburban women working to defeat extremism. They are against book bans, school vouchers, and extremist schoolboard candidates. What are they for? They are for LGBT rights, women's reproductive freedom, no voter ID, and DEI. Red, Wine, and Blue appears to be a feminist progressive ideological women's group engaging in political activism in five swing states and at the Brecksville Library. The last Pride quote, people present that day were from all over Northeast Ohio. BBH Pride has never organized a protest event. The group that assembled at the library did include supporters and team members of BBH Pride. Our group was invited and anyone supporting LGBTQ residents of Brecksville as well as people who believe in free speech and object to book bans." This strains credibility as to how BBH Pride claims to have no part in organizing the demonstration. In conclusion, how silly and stupid were those 75 little human beings who registered and expected a book reading but were intimidated to leave because of a peaceful political protest. I'm being facetious. Adults demonstrating at a child's gathering created confusion, uncertainty, disorder for the presenters, the adults, and the few children who remained. No one else can speak for their perceptions and feelings but they themselves. The kids got in the way of adults wielding political axes. Yes, protesters had a right to their actions. But were their actions the right thing to do to demonstrators who claim inclusion, acceptance, leading with love? What about tolerance of other belief systems? It seems as if the hatred of Moms for Liberty, Bob France and Vivek Ramaswamy's political views was stronger than the love of innocence for children. Fair-minded people would draw the line when political activists disrupt children's events. I am asking our city leaders again to draw that line by holding the public library officials responsible for enforcing their policies with equity. I ask each of us here to stop attacking and imposing ideologies on others. Gratefully, in America, we have the right to choose with whom we associate. We also have the right to choose our belief systems and express them in public without censorship. I pray to God that tonight he covers each of us in this chamber with his light, his wisdom, and his truth to resolve our differences. Thank you.

2:12:08

5. 8:42 PM Katie Paris, Shaker Hts.

First, thank you so much for your time, Council Members, and for your service to the community. My name is Katie Paris. I am a Cuyahoga County mom of two young boys, and I am the founder of Red Wine and Blue. Thank you so much for the introduction, Claire. Red, White, and Blue is indeed a community of women who are working together to stand up to extremism across our nation and in our own backyards. Um, I also am a

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Christian. My dad was a Methodist minister for 17 years. It's a proud part of who I am and where my values come from. I think it's good to point out common ground when we have that shared background and experience. And it yes, I also want to say it is true that I got involved in politics by participating in a phone bank at age nine. That is not the case for most women who participate in Red, White, and Blue, and it's my honor to help them become involved in their local communities. I also think it's worth noting that Red, White, and Blue is really politically diverse. Some people are surprised to find out that 54% of our members are current or former independents and Republicans. So, it's a group of Democratic, Republican, and independent women working together to fight against extremism. Okay. So, I did want to share that when some of our team and volunteers, one of the moms from Red Wine and Blue who works for me works with me was there at the Brecksville Library at this event that people have been speaking about. And so when these comments were made at the last City Council meeting here in Brecksville, I did feel I got to stand up for my team. I just wanted to represent them here tonight because some of them were there and I'm very proud of them for doing that. I do want to point out that this was a Moms for Liberty event. The Moms for Liberty logo was on the event graphic. It was hosted by the Moms for Liberty local chair and indeed it was promoted on all the Moms for Liberty local social media channels. So if they didn't mean for it to be a Moms for Liberty event, it was absolutely presented as such. It was held again at the Brexville Library. It was with and it was promoted to be held with a Poorva Ramaswamy who is the wife of an Ohio gubernatorial candidate. And so when local parents heard about that, they wanted to make sure that with someone that high-profile who is traveling the state and wanting to hear from parents across the state that that she was not given the idea that Moms for Liberty represents the majority of Ohio moms. There's a diversity of views and it was important for that diversity to be represented that day. So, I'm can I'm sure you can understand why they did not want it to come across as though Moms for Liberty spoke for all of us, the majority of Ohio moms. Moms for Liberty is a national organization that has used harassment and intimidation to silence librarians, teachers, parents, students, and community leaders. They've accused loving parents of child abuse and called for gay kids to be put in separate classrooms. They've led book bans, attacked public libraries, and cost school districts millions of dollars. The Red, White, and Blue community members who showed up at the Brecksville Library gathered peacefully, cheerfully, even wearing shirts that said, "Be you better together." Other positive messages. That's just kind of how we roll. They also shared stickers and books. Um, so you can imagine all of us how surprised we were when we heard that the head of the Cuyahoga County Moms for Liberty chapter showed up at this meeting and also went on a local radio show to spread falsehoods about a quote mob surrounding them inside her event. Um, interestingly, the radio host who had also been a guest at the event told her I listened to this radio show. I was curious. He told her that he didn't notice anything going on of that nature while he was speaking and also the photos posted on Moms for Liberty's own Facebook page showed no such mob activity. So nonetheless when she did share this version of events at your last meeting it seemed to be accepted at face value. She was offered sympathy and encouraged to take her case to the county. Unfortunately this is how disinformation works. Since 2021, Moms for Liberty members who often didn't even have kids in the school districts started showing up at schoolboard meetings making wild claims about books, taking passages out of context and demanding the books be taken off shelves before any facts could be checked. They often got their way. Later, it was shown that their claims were deeply misleading and that most of the book bans across the country were the result of the complaints of just 11 parents. But the damage had already been done and many of us are still working to undo it and prevent further damage. That's why I'm here today. I want to try to prevent further damage because the awful and divisive strategy of disinformation can work if we ignore it and hope it goes away. But if we speak up and tell the truth together, all of us, we can stop it in its tracks. Thank you for your time.

2:17:47

6. 8:47 PM Christine George, Sunnydale Dr.

Good evening. My name is Christine George. I live on 8390 Sunnydale Drive here in Brecksville. I attended the Brave Book Story Hour on August 16th. Walking past signs that read, "Go away" and banned books, I headed over to our reserved meeting room. As our guest readers began their stories, protesters entered the room wearing shirts promoting their ideals of sexuality. They proceeded to then turn their backs on us, our children, and our guest speakers. They brought out books with adult content with children present in the room. It seemed that their goal was to harass and try to intimidate us. I did not sense any genuine interest in our speakers or any support for what we were doing. The lack of respect and flaunting of these books was unacceptable. This happened here in our city. What will your response be? Moms for liberty cannot do this alone. We need your

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help to protect our children and our liberties. Here are two questions for your consideration. Do our children here in Brecksville have the right and liberty to enjoy a wholesome story hour with their families free of adult protesters? Do we as parents have the right and liberty to protect our children from adults who push their sexual agendas on our children? Thank you for your consideration.

2:20:26

7. 8:50 PM Marilyn Malone , Woodwalk Dr.

My name is Marilyn Malone. I live at 6946 Woodwalk Drive in Brecksville. I'm here to tell you tonight why I went to the um to the Brecksville Cuyahoga Community Library while Moms for Liberty group had their gathering in the large meeting room. and to what I witnessed. I went because this year I'm taking a vigorous interest in the upcoming state and local elections, including the Brecksville Broadview Heights Board of Education. The first of my three great nieces will begin attending Brecksville Broadview Heights Schools in 2026. In researching the school board candidates, I heard there was a Moms for Liberty candidate on the ballot. I didn't know who it was. So I was researching, as I was researching the candidates, I also researched the organization. I read position statements, including a quote by Adolf Hitler says, "He who owns the youth owns the future." Granted, that statement appears in a literature in from Indianapolis in 2023. But these days, I think we all know that even if someone apologized for a quote, it doesn't really mean that it's true for them. Moms for Liberty seemed to me to be a local arm for Project 2025 and the Heritage Foundation. As for August 16th, I arrived at that library around 1:00. I chatted with neighbors, red wine, and blue friends. Yes, I belong. And acquaintances from the Brecksville Dems, yes, I belong. and BBH Pride. They were spread throughout the throughout the library. I wore a flowered t-shirt with the words democracy, freedom, and truth written down the side. I held the 35year-old classic book, Heather Has Two Mommies, gifted to me by that day by Robin, one of my friends from Red Wine and Blue. I mingled with others around the bookshelves in the front of the library. We were not blocking the entrance to the library nor the meeting room. We used our inside library voices and did not harass anyone. Some of the group went in to see the happening in the meeting for a short time. They told us Liberty Moms were reading Kirk Cameron's book Brave as a Lion to the children in the meeting. The librarian asked us to leave a wider aisle for their exit when their meeting was ending which we did. When the meeting ended, the Liberty Moms walked out past us. One couple stopped to talk to a woman in the group for a moment. It didn't look contentious. There was no other interaction that I saw. At 2:30, a few pictures of us were taken and I left. Four people were holding signs at the end of the library. We have special needs students in my extended family. We have gay moms and dads in our circle of friends and family. I have LGBTQ friends in the community with whom I'm close. I consider myself an ally to them. I believe all students should be accepted and respected in public schools. I think DEI is a good thing. I think the big problem students face are feeling excluded, threats of school gun violence, and fear of ICE rates. I oppose what our state legislature is doing to our public schools by restricting funding and sending it to private schools through voucher programs. I believe we need a secure separation of church and state and public schools. We need a strong board of education to stand up for our funding that's due to us and implement inclusive policies and guard against violence to keep our kids safe. My point is I'm doing my research. I considered attending that event to see for myself in a public space as research to make the best voting decision I can make in these important election seasons. Thank you.

8 Lisa Stair 2:24:34

My name is Lisa Stair and I don't belong to any of the groups being listed here tonight. And I am going to be quick. I I know the word truth is being thrown around real loosely if you asked me because I have on my phone a picture out of the book gender queer. And I want to ask anyone, anyone in this entire room to tell me that these pages out of that book are not pornographic. Anybody? It's the truth that it is pornographic. And I don't understand how people could try to argue it, twist it, turn it. I don't know. I but I really would like all of you, anybody that would like to see it to please come to me after the meeting. Thanks.

2:28:53

9. 8:56 PM Kathy Boff, Fireside Trail Broadview Hts.

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Good evening, Mayor, Council President, and members of Council. My name is Kathy Boff and I live in on Fireside Trail in Broadview Heights and I did attend the August 16th Brooksville Library National Brave Books event that was sponsored in part by Moms for Liberty Cuyahoga County and I am a member of Moms for Liberty. When I arrived at the library, I saw the BBH Pride president and some other protesters, some with fascist and pride attire clothing on. So, I was trying to ignore it because I just wanted the kids to have a good story time. So, when I was seated in the reserved meeting room, I was dismayed and noticed many protesters who had entered the library were congregating around the entrance hallway to the reserve meeting room space that we were in. This was intimidating for story time guests still arriving to walk through, especially those with children, because they told me so. A few protesters entered our room at some point and proceeded to turn around to face the back of the room and to read and show adult content books that were open to the front of the room. At the end, the protesters surrounded guests on both sides of the hallway, exiting our meeting room, which again had an intimidating effect on registered attendees. For some odd and worrisome reason, recent history shows some of these protesters have been insistent that they are determined to impose, actually push is their words, their worldview of human sexuality onto other people's children and our communities and in our communities. And they advocate to do so behind parents' backs. Yes, without parental knowledge. This is especially concerning to people of certain faiths. This is not a community value and Brecksville Broadview Heights. Yes, these individuals do have a right to protest. However, it was intimidating and many area community residents think that it was highly disturbing that adults would protest a Christian public publishing company's national family and children's story time event by displaying and reading adults content books in a reserved community library space that should be keeping families and children safe. So, how extremely troubling is that? Was it their specific goal to intimidate area Christian families? I'm not sure. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Thank you, father

10. 8:58 PM Alexa Kasimir Amberwood Ct.

Hello, my name is Alexa Casmir. I'm a resident of Broadview Heights. My address is 9641 Amberwood Court. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all. I'll try to be quick and I probably will be because I'm a little nervous. I watched the Brecksville City City Council meeting from August 19th and after hearing Hillary Jackson's allegations and after hearing the allegations tonight, I feel compelled to defend myself and the other protesters who were at the Moms for Liberty meeting on August 16th. I was at the Brecksville Library branch on August 16th wearing this exact shirt. I was exercising my First Amendment right. This protest was not organized by BBH Pride. I met many, I met people from many different cities. There were protesters outside the library peacefully reading banned books and holding up signs. There were also peaceful protesters gathered inside. We stood on either side of the walkway to the meeting. Everyone I spoke to did not even know it was a children's story hour. The event graphic for the Moms for Liberty meeting also did not say anything about a children's story hour. It all it only mentioned guest speakers Bob France and Apoorva Ramaswamy. I hope I said her name right. There were a lot of adult attendees who did not bring children with them. It was one of these in it was one of these adults who invited us to come into the meeting. I did not know it was a registered event. I believe there were four protesters that entered the room. We did not surround anyone because there were no easily of, easily accessible seats. We stood far in the back corner closest to the exit. If we wanted to be disruptive, we could have moved our way through people to find seats. We stayed in the back. Bob France and Hillary Jackson were reading children's books. Sarah Kolik and I stood silently reading our books. My book was Gone Girl by Gileian Flynn, which is a novel without photos and it is not pornographic. A gentleman came over with three seats. I thanked him. Sarah and I sat facing the back of the room, silently reading. We did not hold up our books to anyone much less the children who were on the opposite side of the room facing away from us. When the story was finished, there appeared there appeared to be a break in the meeting and the four of us left. We did not approach or harass anyone. When Apoorva Ramaswamy began her presentation, I went back into the meeting room and so did a few other people. I and my fellow protesters were quiet and respectful during her presentation and during Hillary Jackson's prayer that closed the meeting. After the meeting concluded, we stood up and left. We did not engage with anyone. There was offense taken by our very presence, not by any offensive actions on our part because there were none. It was a silent protest and peaceful protest. This was my first time using my first amendment right to free speech in a public forum. I was proud to see all of us exercising our rights in a peaceful and respectful manner. I was equally appalled to hear of the slander against myself and every other participant in attendance. The unwarranted backlash has made me realize how important it is to exercise my First Amendment right, and I would not hesitate to do so again. Any group that is willing to shamelessly spread misinformation deserves to be challenged and their lies need to be called out. If a person wearing a rainbow

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shirt and silent reading a book is intimidating or disruptive to Hillary Jackson and the Moms for Liberty group, I would respectfully suggest that they hold their meetings in a church or a private meeting place. The same holds true if they want to censor other ~~other~~ viewpoints and have complete control over who can enter a building. They should not be calling on the library to change policies to favor them. The library is a public place. Let me be clear. We were not protesting a children's story hour. We are protesting the banning of books. I am protesting the efforts of Moms for Liberty to challenge and attempt to have books removed from private from public libraries and public schools. I have three children of my own. I have no issue with a parents right to control what their child is exposed to. I have a problem with other parents in organized groups attempting attempting to censor and remove materials from public split public. I was doing so good. I have a problem with other parents and organized groups attempting to censor and remove materials from public spaces based on their own personal beliefs, whether that is a public school or a public library. Thank you for your service to the community and thank you for your time. 2:34:03

11. 9:04 PM James Grosh, Sunnysdale

Good evening, Mayor, Council. My name is James Grosh. I used to live in Brecksville. I live in Middleburg Heights now. I guess really what I want to say, I donated to the Moms for Liberty a few weeks ago. So, I like what they're fighting for, family values and faith and keeping these pornographic books out of our school. I found one in our school district, Me and Earl and the Dying Girl. Look up that one that was available to seventh graders. Gender queer. You've heard you I'm sure you've heard them. I did want to bring up our state legislatures dealt with this by SB1. They've, they came to the conclusion there's liberal doctrination and it's not that's not a myth. It's been going on in the colleges and it's down into our K through 12 as well. Half these teachers and half these board members in these schools, they're activists and it it needs to stop. And I don't know how it stops, but hopefully just more people will get involved and pay attention and come to some, some consensus on these things because what I found in these grade schools, it's and it's not book banning. I don't think Moms for Liberty is advocating for book banning. It's age appropriateness. And these, in my opinion, they don't, do not belong for seventh graders or younger for kids to be able to look at. So there's the divide on it. They feel they should be able to have these books in schools. I feel they don't. I don't I'm sure the moms for liberty don't. I don't know a whole lot about them, but when I found out about them, looked into them, I like what they were fighting for. But again, I just want to remind you our state legislators passing laws to stop this stuff. And I'm real proud that we live in a red state and it's getting redder. So, with that, I'll say good night.

12. 9:06 PM Debra Mullin, Highland Dr.

I'm very nervous. My name is Deborah Mullen. I live at 9884 Highland Drive. Um, believe it or not, I'm a retired public librarian. My last 10 years I was a manager of um, a library in another county. Um, and I am currently a member of Moms for Liberty. In my career as a librarian, I never banned a single book, no matter how offensive to me personally that it was. And I never advocated for that. And I do not advocate for that today. And I can speak with confidence that Moms for Liberty is not advocating for that either. When I attended library school way back in the 05-07 time, um, Kent State taught us a great deal about the difference between public libraries and school libraries because schools act "in loco parentis", which means in lue of the parent, whereas public libraries do not. And so any person of any age can go into a public library and check out any material they wish. But a school library is different. A school library is acting in the role of the parent while that child is in school. So anyway, I just wanted to throw that out there. I did attend the event on August 16th. I was going to bring my granddaughter. I have five granddaughters. She's only three. I was worried the books wouldn't interest her enough. So that's why I left her at home. I was intimidated by the gauntlet of people that I had to pass. And while many of their shirts expressed pride and things like that, there was definitely one that said ban fascists, which led me to feel like I was being called a fascist. And I am nothing of the sort. Um, so that was intimidating for me. Had I had my granddaughter with me, I'm not sure had I would have gone in, I might have turned around and left. Um, the gals that the one that spoke and the other gal that spoke earlier with the "ban fascist shirt", they were actually right in front of me because I was tardy. So, I was the one that was kind of surrounded, if you will, by them. Um, that is correct. They were silent, but the fact that they entered the room and turned their backs to the speaker, in my opinion, again, as a public librarian, was a disruptive act to the group that had an approved use of the meeting room. Further, in going through the Cuyahoga County policies, I see that harassment, intimidation, etc. is not permitted. But the fact that they were inside the building caused people to feel intimidated. And I guess I would hope that if there's a group who feels that they have been on the

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wrong side of intimidation that they might have considered that we would feel intimidated by them kind of surrounding us as we walked into the meeting room. And my apologies. Finally, I would just like to say that if I had been manager of that library, I would have kept the protesters outside. That was to my knowledge the policy of the library that I managed that anyone who was protesting, soliciting, anything like that needed to remain outside of the library and not impacting ingress or egress. And I believe that them lining the hallway through which we had to pass was impacting our ingress and egress. So, thank you very much for your time.

13. 9:11 PM Kelly Stewart, Dewey Road

Good evening. My name is Kelly Stewart and I've lived on Dwey Road for over 25 years. I'm here today to speak out, not just to correct the record, but to shine a light on the real harm being done to our community by the false narrative that Hillary Jackson has chosen to spread. On August 19th, Hillary Jackson stood before Council and shared a version of events that was not only inaccurate but intentionally inflammatory. Her account of what happened at the Brecksville Library on August 16th has misrepresented peaceful community members, vilified a local organization, and fueled division. I was there that day, and I feel the responsibility to speak the truth because her lies are not harmless. They are hurting real people. I attended the event out of concern about the influence of Moms for Liberty on public education. Like many in our community, I worry about efforts to impose a narrow ideological lens on what our children learn. As a mother of three graduates of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, I'm grateful they received an education that exposed them to diverse perspectives and encourage critical thinking, not blind allegiance to whatever's told to them. Miss Jackson falsely portrayed that the day as a hostile organized protest led by BBH Pride. That is simply not true. Yes, the president of BBH Pride was present, but so were other concerned individuals from all over the county. They have no affiliation with BBH Pride. We were there as individuals exercising our rights. Her attempt to scapegoat BBH Pride is not only dishonest, but it unjustly malign a peaceful group committed to supporting the LGBTQ community, an organization that has helped many, including myself, learn how to be better allies. Equally troubling are Miss Jackson's false claims that we blocked the event entrance and intimidated attendees. Now, you've heard from some individuals. We stood in the common area, not in the foyer, and not in front of the event room. We stood to the side, and yes, some of us wore our colorful rainbow attire. So intimidating. Sorry. We stood peacefully with smiles on our faces. We stood in the common area, not in the foyer. The library staff clearly instructed us to ensure we did not block the attendees in any way and we fully complied. Her dramatic claim that guests had to coordinate their way through a mob is not just an exaggeration, it's fabrication. Miss Jackson also went on Bob France's show where she further exaggerated escalated her rhetoric claiming a horde of protesters stormed into the room, grabbed chairs and encircled attendees. Again, none of that happened. A few of us entered the room quietly, headed to the back of the room after being invited by an event attendee. There was no disruption. A gentleman went as far as going into the closet and got out a couple more chairs for us to sit. We had entered the room when Bob France was reading to eight children sitting on the floor in the front of the room. Bob France acknowledged during his own podcast that he did not witness any disturbance during his reading because there was none. But what makes Miss Jackson's lies most dangerous is not just that they're untrue. It's what they're doing to our community. Her false claims have incited online harassment against a candidate for Brecksville Broadview Heights School Board. Someone who wasn't even at the event at the library, but is simply an ally to BBH Pride. Miss Jackson's supporters have singled this person out, using her lies as ammunition to smear and intimidate someone who is trying to serve our schools. Miss Jackson's false accusations are also casting a shadow on the Brecksville Library staff. People who did their job that day with professionalism and care. Instead of being thanked for maintaining a peaceful event, they are now being targeted based on a completely fictional account. This is not about differences of opinion. This is about truth versus falsehood. About a pattern of deceit that strokes fear, breeds hostility, and undermines trust in the people and institutions that hold our community together. When lies are used as weapons, everyone suffers. especially when those lies vilify individuals and groups who are simply working to create a more inclusive, respectful community. Repeating a lie loudly or often doesn't make it true, but it does cause real harm. So, I'm asking each of you, don't just listen to the loudest voice in the room. Look at the facts, ask questions, demand truth and accountability for those who claim to speak for this community. We deserve that. We deserve honesty. We deserve unity. And we deserve leaders who build bridges, not burn them. Thank you.

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14. 9:16 PM Hilary Jackson, Arlington Street

Good evening, council. My name is Hillilary Jackson and I live on 6955 Arlington Street. Um, I I wasn't planning on speaking, but since we brought up the seasoned assist that I received, I might as well acknowledge that. Um, so I acknowledge the receipt of your cease and desist dated August 28th, 2025. After careful review, I must respectfully reject your claims as they are inaccurate and unsupported. Contrary to the assertions, I'm sorry, the assertions in your letter. The event held on August 16th, 2025 titled "See You at the Library" was unquestionably and explicitly advertised as a children's story time with guest readers. Multiple advertisements and postings, many of which included images and video recordings of past See You at the Library events, clearly showed adults reading children's books to children. Furthermore, Brave Books, the true organizer of this nationwide event, publicly advertised on its own website that this was a children's story time. Your claim that the event was not presented as a child-focused event is therefore false. Even the citation you reference identifies Brave Books as a publishing company that specializes in children's books. To suggest that this event was intended for anything other than children is not only unreasonable, it is contrary to both the plain wording of the advertisements and to common sense. Story time at a library is by norm and by public understanding directed towards children and families. There is no tradition, practice, or reasonable expectation that library story time refers to adults reading books aloud to other adults. In your letter, you claim that around 20 individuals assembled at the library to freely demonstrate their views regarding one or more of the organizations sponsoring the event. That is quite literally the definition of being an activist. Actively protesting or announcing opposition to another organization or candidate. What you stated was there to what you were there to do is exactly what the definition of an activist is. You further claim that your organization does not organize protests. Yet, you admitted in your own letter to the community that multiple people reached out to you to have a peaceful demonstration. By your own admission, you knowingly participated and encouraged a protest. Additionally, you note that many Moms for Liberty events are protested. If that is the case, and for what other purpose were you and your members present but to protest, which is precisely what an activist organization does. According to Miriam Webster, the definition of an activist is as follows. One who advocates or practices activism. A person who uses or supports strong actions such as public protests in support or of opposition to a side of a controversial issue. While we acknowledge that other protests may have also been present or protesters may have also been present, the fact demonstrates that this was more than a casual gathering. The leader of BBH Pride was in attendance along with many other well-known members of this organization. For there to be about around 20 individuals mostly wearing Pride themed T-shirts carrying Pride themed books and holding signs with coordinated messaging clearly shows that this was a planned and organized effort, not a spontaneous act by a few individuals. Contrary to the repeated statements that your group was merely exercising its first amendment rights of freedom of speech and assembly, the law is clear that libraries are not traditional public forums, but instead are considered limited or non-public forums. As such, the government agency administering the space is only obligated to accommodate First Amendment activities that are consistent with the library's purpose. In Brown versus Louisiana in 1966, the Supreme Court acknowledged that a public library may serve as a forum for expressive conduct, but also recognized that such rights are subject to restriction where they disrupt the library's intended use. Similarly, in Kramer versus Board of Police Commissions of Morristown, New Jersey in 1990, the court emphasized that the nature of the forum determines the extent of permissible speech and upheld limits on excessive conduct inconsistent with the forum's use. Multiple courts have affirmed this principle. The Sixth Circuit and various district courts have explicitly held that a library is a limited public forum. For example, in Tronson versus Toledo Lucas County Public Library, that was in 2008, the court ruled that by its very nature, as a sanctuary for inquiry, study, learning, and contemplation, a library is not an unlimited public forum. There's a lot more to back that up, but for time sake, and I'm tired, I will skip to in plain terms. This means that libraries are obligated to protect only those expressive activities consistent with their core mission. Quiet access to information, reading, studying, and inquiry while disruptive activities such as rallies, pamphleting, chanting or sitins, sitins is actually in the case law verbatim need not be tolerated. Moreover, since Moms for Liberty and specifically the Cuyahoga County, the Cuyahoga County Chapter has never banned any books, neither advocated for censorship and have only advocated for age appropriate materials and parental optouts, rights based on religious beliefs, Mammud versus Taylor that just passed this past summer. The very basis of your protest was both pointless and unfounded. The claims that there were no conflicts, disturbances, or arguments before, during, or after the event is demonstrably false. Branch manager Melanie Weiss, while kind and helpful to Moms for Liberty throughout the event, was directly confronted by Jennifer Kiko with Americans for Prosperity, who specifically asked Miss Weiss for assistance in removing the women who had entered the room uninvited. During the

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event, attendee Diane Stove stated in her in her written account that she personally approached protesters who entered the room and asked them to not be disruptive. Following the event, Miss Weiss was sympathetic to attendee Deborah Mullen as indicated and indicated that she planned to meet with her supervisor to discuss how the library could handle such situations better in the future. Furthermore, Miss Stove reported that as she was leaving the event, a library staff member asked her and her husband John Stove to leave the premises after Miss Stove expressed to the protesters that their actions were unnecessary. In addition, on August 22nd, the library's chief operations officer Jeff my chief public service officer Pamela Jenowski both personally called Miss Jackson, myself, to apologize for how the event unfolded on August 16th and requested statements and police reports. These facts make it clear that there were indeed conflicts and disturbances connected to this event. Your letter also asserts that protesters did not block entry to the room. That is false. We have photographic evidence that they did in fact form a gauntlet as well through which families and children were forced to pass holding signs such as read books ban fascists. This is not a traditional greeting in any stretch of the imagination. You further claim that three protesters were invited to the room by an attendee. That too is false as confirmed by multiple written statements from attendees. The record shows that the individuals entered in the middle of the story being read while all attendees were clearly and already seated, thereby causing disruption. In the interview with Bob France on August 19th, I stated the children were so immersed in the books, so we continued to read. I didn't want them to I didn't want to alert them that anybody was, you know, publicly or potentially causing any harm. I just wanted them to have a good day. That's why we didn't or even just a good few hours. So, we didn't call the police. This reflects the fact that Miss Jackson sought to preserve the children's experience, not that the children were unaware of the protest. Indeed, multiple intended statements confirm that the children did notice the disruption. Your letter misrepresents Miss Jackson's remarks to Brecksville City Council. You claim that I stated in quotes, "No family feels safe and no children and children do not feel safe." That is false. The public record shows, my exact words were, "Once that line is crossed once adults are allowed to turn children's events into battlegrounds, families begin to wonder whether community spaces are safe at all." Parents hesitate before bringing their children. "I did not say what you alleged. You miscued me twice in the cease and desist despite the records of my exact words being made public and easily obtainable." Therefore, that portion of the cease and desist letter is also false and unfounded. The claims that my description of the event was false and defamatory fail because you provide no independent evidence to support them. Defamation requires proof of false statements of fact made with actual malice, merely disagreeing with my characterization of the events do not meet that threshold. All of your accusations fall squarely within the realm of conflicting opinion rather than actionable defamation. Furthermore, your assertion that the event occurred without concerns or disruptions is directly contradicted by the evidence, attendee statements, staff apologies, photographs, and follow-up phone calls from the library executives acknowledging what transpired. This absolute denial undermines the credibility of your accusations. Your citation of the Bob France interview, where you claim I admitted that there were delays due to technical difficulties, deliberately ignores my fuller statement, in which I explained that I chose not to alert the children to the disruptions. This is selective quoting and misleading. Additionally, your statement that assemblers merely stood or sat quietly is disproven by written testimony and photographic evidence showing protesters blocking access, holding provocative signs, and entering the event mid reading. Finally, your contention with the word radical is defamatory and, as defamatory is baseless. Political or ideological labels are considered protected opinion under well established case law. Milkovich versus the Loraine County Journal in 1990. Indeed, in the; your own letter to the community written on BBH Pride letterhead, you referred to Moms for Liberty as an anti-government, anti-LGBTQ uh LGBTQ extremist group. This demonstrates the hypocrisy of your position and further confirms that such labels are protected expressions of opinion, not defamation. You continue to misquote me on my August 19th interview with Bob France, claiming that I exaggerated the presence of protesters. My exact statement was, "This horde of BBH pride protesters decided that standing in front of the doorway to our room wasn't enough." Again, you are mischaracterizing my words and presenting them in a misleading manner. You also claim that the terms mob and horde were intended to invoke images of large angry groups. Yet the photographic evidence clearly shows approximately 20 individuals packed into a very small space carrying signs reading read books ban fascists. This is not the language or the imagery of peaceful or happy assembly particularly in front of children attending a story time. Furthermore, you assert that the library staff and video footage has repeatedly stated that it will not release I'm sorry. The library staff and video footage can attest to your orderly conduct, but the library has repeatedly stated that they will not release the video footage due to OC49.432, making your reliance on it both speculative and misleading. The fact remains that your conduct was a coordinated act of protest, not passive assembly. And as an established by

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controlling case law, a public library is a limited forum where expressive activities such as protests are not protected by the first amendment when inconsistent with the library's intended function. Your claim that one of the protesters reading a book in the room did not contain sexual images and that such images were not shown to anyone in the room is demonstrably false. It was evidently clear that all attendees needed to do was turn around and they could see the explicit images plainly displayed in the book being held up which I have a photo of. Multiple attendees have confirmed that the images were visible and inappropriate for children's story hour. The book in question titled it rhymes with Takai or Tiki I don't even know how to say his name and its illustrations included content that was unmistakably sexual in nature. To deny that these images were visible or present is to deny what is plainly documented and observed by those in attendance. The book it rhymes with tea ti is not a children's book. It is a graphic memoir written by George Tech guy or whatever and illustrated by Harmony Becker addressing mature themes such as such as sexual identity, romantic and sexual relationships, discrimination and the AIDS crisis. While the content is presented in a memoir format, it contains depictions and discussions of sexuality, intimacy that are not suitable for children. Critical reviews and publishers classified this book as appropriate for young adults and adult readers generally recommended for ages 13 and up. There was nobody in that room that was over the age of 12, actually 11. Additionally, you claim that my use of humor to describe the sex act depicted in the graphic cartoon novel constitutes defamation is wholly without merit. Courts have consistently recognized that rhetoric rhetorical hyperbole, satire, and humor, even when pointed or uncomfortable, are protected under the First Amendment. Miss Jackson's comments were not presented as factual accusations against any individual, but rather as commentary on the appropriateness of the material for children. As such, they fall squarely within the realm of protected opinion and humorous expression, not actual actionable definition. Because you disliked my opinion, you pursued your cease and desist. You pursued videos, commentary on social media. So my question to everyone in this room, I guess, is whether or not all feelings matter, who whose feelings matter, and when they're permitted to matter. In conclusion, I'm almost done. I promise. The claims made in your cease and desist are without merit. My statements were based on observable facts, community concern, and my protected right to speak on issues of public interest. The reality is that any reputational harm your group claims to have suffered stems not from my words, but from your own actions. Both at the August 16th, 2025 event and in the broader community. The pattern of behavior documented the pattern of behavior, documented concerns from citizens, and the public record speak for themselves. I will not retract my truthful statements and I will not be intimidated into silence when I am advocating for the safety, the well-being and the rights of families, our children, our taxpayers and beyond. Thank you.

15. 9:32 PM Christina Lakatos, Lloyd Dr.

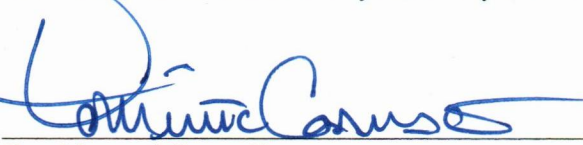
Okay, I'll be quick. Good evening, Mayor and Council. I didn't plan to speak tonight, so I'll be quick, but my name is Christina Lakatos. I live at 6556 Lloyd Drive here in Brecksville. I'm a 0 mother of four. I have two stepchildren and two young children. And I also have neighbors here who I like very much, but I'm going to respectfully disagree with tonight. I want to be clear that tonight, this is not a trial. We are not here to decide who better represents our values or better protects our children. We don't have to choose.

9:39 PM

Hearing no further comments, motion to adjourn was made by Caruso, Seconded by Savage.

Voting Yea: Bender, Caruso, Ganim, Jantzen, Koepke, Savage.

MOTION CARRIED: 6- Ayes, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain.



President of Council



Clerk of Council

Mayor and Safety Director: Daryl Kingston

City Council Members: Dominic Caruso, President; Beth Savage, Vice President; Dan Bender; AJ Ganim; Mark Jantzen; Ann Koepke; Brian Stucky.

Clerk: Tammy Tabor