

**Levesque, Jennifer**

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**From:** Debbie Alexander [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 1:00 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Christian Flag, K.1 25-123

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I request that the City of Merced display the Christian flag in Bob Hart Square for Easter as per K.1 25-123.

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

**Levesque, Jennifer**

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**From:** Micki Archuleta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 7:52 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; McBride, Scott  
**Subject:** Establishing an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee for Transparency and Equity

**Mayor Matt Serratto**  
**City Council Members**  
City of Merced  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Subject: Establishing an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee for Transparency and Equity**

Dear Mayor Serratto and Honorable City Council Members,

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the City of Merced's responsiveness and professionalism in engaging with my concerns regarding LGBTQ+ services in our community. While my frustrations have been primarily directed at the County's handling of these matters, I have found the City to be open to discussion, and I deeply respect that.

I had planned to attend the recent Town Hall meeting but mistakenly thought it was next week. In retrospect, I recognize that discussing this issue in that setting may not have been the right approach, given the broader focus of the meeting. However, **the need for accountability and support for LGBTQ+ services remains urgent**, and I am reaching out to you now to ensure these concerns are addressed.

Additionally, with **Chick-fil-A expanding into Merced**, it is essential that the City demonstrate its support for its **LGBTQ+ residents** in a visible and meaningful way. Ensuring that local LGBTQ+ organizations have a voice in decision-making and equitable access to funding would reinforce Merced's commitment to inclusivity.

## **A Solution: An LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee**

To address these concerns, I propose the creation of an **LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee** in Merced. This committee could serve as a **watchdog entity** to ensure funding is allocated responsibly, services are provided as promised, and that no individual or organization is unjustly excluded from participation.

The oversight committee would:

1. **Monitor LGBTQ+ funding allocations** to ensure they go to effective programs that serve our community.
2. **Ensure local LGBTQ+ organizations are included in funding opportunities** rather than being bypassed in favor of out-of-county organizations.
3. **Hold County and City-funded LGBTQ+ programs accountable** for delivering promised services.
4. **Facilitate community engagement** to ensure LGBTQ+ voices are represented in decision-making.
5. **Investigate discrimination claims** related to LGBTQ+ service providers or agencies.

The City has the power to lead on this issue, setting an example of **inclusive governance** and ensuring LGBTQ+ services in Merced **reflect the needs of its residents** rather than outside interests.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss how this proposal might be implemented. **I truly believe that by working together, we can create a system of accountability that benefits all of Merced's residents.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

**Micki Archuleta**

Merced County Resident & LGBTQ+ Advocate



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***Micki***

***Everything touched is by political choice.***

***The life you take is your political voice.***

***--Chrissie Hynde***

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## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Micki Archuleta <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 8:23 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; McBride, Scott  
**Subject:** Re: Establishing an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee for Transparency and Equity

Merced is growing, and with it, we are seeing an expansion of businesses, ideas, and opportunities. One of those businesses is Chick-fil-A, a company that has long been a topic of discussion regarding its corporate influence on LGBTQ+ rights. While I do not object to any business legally opening its doors in our city, I do believe it is important that we acknowledge the **power dynamics at play** and ensure that all voices—especially marginalized ones—have equal footing in the public square.

Democracy thrives when **diverse perspectives** are heard and respected. It is not about silencing one another but rather ensuring that **corporate influence does not drown out the voices of everyday residents** who do not have the financial resources to shape policy through lobbying or campaign donations. Chick-fil-A has spent millions of dollars opposing LGBTQ+ rights at the national level, and there is no reason to believe they cannot exert similar influence at the local level.

As a resident of Merced, **I seek protection from this insidious influence**—not because I oppose free enterprise, but because history has shown that corporate dollars often weigh more heavily than community voices. Our city should ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals are equally represented, protected, and supported. If major businesses with a history of funding anti-LGBTQ+ initiatives are expanding into our town, we must **proactively advocate for safe spaces, equal opportunities, and policies that affirm the rights of all residents**.

This is not a call to boycott, nor is it a demand that Chick-fil-A be unwelcome in Merced. **This is a call for balance.** As the city continues to develop, it must recognize that **corporate influence should not shape the future of Merced more than the people who live here.** That means supporting **local LGBTQ+ organizations, ensuring fair representation in governance, and standing firm against discriminatory policies—no matter where they originate.**

In a democracy, **we share ideas, we debate, and we build a future together.** I hope the presence of a corporation like Chick-fil-A in our city will not mean that LGBTQ+ voices are drowned out but instead serve as a reminder that **we must remain vigilant in protecting the rights of all community members.**

Let's work together to ensure that **Merced remains a place where everyone is valued, included, and has an equal say in our shared future.**

**Micki Archuleta**  
Merced County Resident & LGBTQ+ Advocate

On Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 7:51 PM Micki Archuleta <[REDACTED]> wrote:

**Mayor Matt Serratto**  
**City Council Members**  
City of Merced  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Subject: Establishing an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee for Transparency and Equity**

Dear Mayor Serratto and Honorable City Council Members,

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the City of Merced's responsiveness and professionalism in engaging with my concerns regarding LGBTQ+ services in our community. While my frustrations have been primarily directed at the County's handling of these matters, I have found the City to be open to discussion, and I deeply respect that.

I had planned to attend the recent Town Hall meeting but mistakenly thought it was next week. In retrospect, I recognize that discussing this issue in that setting may not have been the right approach, given the broader focus of the meeting. However, **the need for accountability and support for LGBTQ+ services remains urgent**, and I am reaching out to you now to ensure these concerns are addressed.

Additionally, with **Chick-fil-A expanding into Merced**, it is essential that the City demonstrate its support for its **LGBTQ+ residents** in a visible and meaningful way. Ensuring that local LGBTQ+ organizations have a voice in decision-making and equitable access to funding would reinforce Merced's commitment to inclusivity.

### **A Solution: An LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee**

To address these concerns, I propose the creation of an **LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee** in Merced. This committee could serve as a **watchdog entity** to ensure funding is allocated responsibly, services are provided as promised, and that no individual or organization is unjustly excluded from participation.

The oversight committee would:

1. **Monitor LGBTQ+ funding allocations** to ensure they go to effective programs that serve our community.
2. **Ensure local LGBTQ+ organizations are included in funding opportunities** rather than being bypassed in favor of out-of-county organizations.
3. **Hold County and City-funded LGBTQ+ programs accountable** for delivering promised services.
4. **Facilitate community engagement** to ensure LGBTQ+ voices are represented in decision-making.
5. **Investigate discrimination claims** related to LGBTQ+ service providers or agencies.

The City has the power to lead on this issue, setting an example of **inclusive governance** and ensuring LGBTQ+ services in Merced **reflect the needs of its residents** rather than outside interests.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to discuss how this proposal might be implemented. **I truly believe that by working together, we can create a system of accountability that benefits all of Merced's residents.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

**Micki Archuleta**

Merced County Resident & LGBTQ+ Advocate



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**Micki**

*Everything touched is by political choice.*

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*--Chrissie Hynde*

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

**From:** [Micki Archuleta](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#); [McBride, Scott](#); [policedepartment](#); [mercedsheriffsoffice@countyofmerced.com](#); [Mendonca, Sharon](#); [Jones, Sharon](#); [Eli Sachse](#); [forrest.hansen@countyofmerced.com](#); [Serratto, Matthew](#); [Boyle, Sarah](#); [Jason Scott](#); [jesse.cruz@centralvalleypride.org](#); [peter.gillis@centralvalleypride.org](#); [Josh.Pedrozo@countyofmerced.com](#); [jon.mcfarland@centralvalleypride.org](#); [Eric Olson-Diehl](#); [kimiko.vang@countyofmerced.com](#); [LGBTQ\\_Merced](#); [roberth@unitedwaymerced.org](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Establishing an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee for Transparency and Equity  
**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:35:14 PM

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Dear Community Leaders,

I watched the Merced City Council Town Hall meeting tonight. There is another meeting next week. I will try my best to make it. In case I don't, the following is the text of my prepared speech:

Merced is growing, and with it, we are seeing an expansion of businesses, ideas, and opportunities. One of those businesses is Chick-fil-A, a company that has long been a topic of discussion regarding its corporate influence on LGBTQ+ rights. While I do not object to any business legally opening its doors in our city, I do believe it is important that we acknowledge the power dynamics at play and ensure that all voices—especially marginalized ones—have equal footing in the public square.

Democracy thrives when diverse perspectives are heard and respected. It is not about silencing one another but rather ensuring that corporate influence does not drown out the voices of everyday residents who do not have the financial resources to shape policy through lobbying or campaign donations. Chick-fil-A has spent millions of dollars opposing LGBTQ+ rights at the national level, and there is no reason to believe they cannot exert similar influence at the local level.

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presence of a corporation like Chick-fil-A in our city will not mean that LGBTQ+ voices are drowned out but instead serve as a reminder that we must remain vigilant in protecting the rights of all community members.

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The City has the power to lead on this issue, setting an example of inclusive governance and ensuring LGBTQ+ services in Merced reflect the needs of its residents rather than outside interests.

Thank you.

**Micki Archuleta**

Merced County Resident & LGBTQ+ Advocate

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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*Micki*

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*The life you take is your political voice.*

*--Chrissie Hynde*

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## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Micki Archuleta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 5:12 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; McBride, Scott  
**Subject:** SPAM:Request for Investigation and Oversight of LGBTQ+ Funding & Leadership in Merced

Dear Members of the Merced City Council,

I write to you today as a longtime advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in Merced and a concerned resident who has witnessed troubling patterns of exclusion, financial mismanagement, and failure to provide critical services. My request is simple: The City of Merced must establish an oversight committee to ensure LGBTQ+ funding and leadership serve the actual needs of our community rather than personal interests.

I do not want to air internal disputes in public, which is why I will limit my remarks at next week's Town Hall meeting to my proposal for this oversight committee. However, I am submitting this letter as formal documentation of the urgent need for investigation and reform.

### 1. Systemic Exclusion of LGBTQ+ Leaders & Misuse of Power

Over the past two years, LGBTQ+ leadership in Merced has been purposefully manipulated to silence local voices and replace them with individuals more concerned with visibility projects than real advocacy.

In 2022, Eli Sachse and I were removed from leadership roles without cause.

Eli, the founder of the Merced Pride Center, was removed in a meeting orchestrated by Jennifer McQueen (Central Valley Pride), Katalina Zambrano (Somos Familia Valle Central), and Adam Lane (former President of the Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance).

The goal was to redirect funding toward a film festival rather than critical LGBTQ+ services.

This shift in leadership led to the collapse of three LGBTQ+ nonprofits:

LGBTQIA+ Collaborative (Modesto-based)  
Merced Pride Center  
Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance

The only surviving organization is the Merced LGBTQ+ Alliance, which has been sidelined and denied funding opportunities.

Current LGBTQ+ leadership does not understand the depth of this history. Those in power today are either unaware of the previous mismanagement or complicit in continuing these exclusionary practices.

I have been personally targeted with defamation and discrimination. Jennifer McQueen falsely accused me of "scaring her daughter" in an attempt to weaponize my mental illness against me. I am currently seeking legal representation regarding this.

### 2. Financial Mismanagement: Where Did the LGBTQ+ Funding Go?

This leadership takeover was not just a political move—it had real financial consequences for our community.

The County awarded funding to LGBTQIA+ Collaborative from Modesto instead of local LGBTQ+ organizations.

Public funds were misused for personal visibility projects rather than services:

Hotel stays and luxury photo shoots in Los Angeles for individual leaders.

A focus on self-promotion rather than actual LGBTQ+ outreach.

Meanwhile, key LGBTQ+ services in Merced remain underfunded or nonexistent.

The City must investigate how LGBTQ+ funding has been allocated and why local organizations were sidelined in favor of out-of-county nonprofits that have not delivered on their promises.

### 3. The City's Role in Ensuring Accountability

The County has ignored my concerns and failed to respond to formal complaints, leaving me with no choice but to escalate the matter.

I have filed complaints with the California Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the Attorney General's Office, and various legal organizations.

I am now calling on the City of Merced to take action where the County has failed.

I propose the creation of an LGBTQ+ Oversight Committee that will:

Monitor LGBTQ+ funding allocations to ensure money is spent on actual services, not vanity projects.

Ensure fair access to funding opportunities for local LGBTQ+ organizations rather than out-of-county entities.

Hold organizations accountable for service delivery.

Facilitate community engagement and representation.

Investigate discrimination claims related to LGBTQ+ service providers.

### Conclusion: A Call for Leadership & Fairness

Merced is a growing city, and with it comes an opportunity to create a fair and inclusive system that serves all its residents. However, we must acknowledge that LGBTQ+ voices have been systematically excluded from decision-making, and resources have been mismanaged.

The City of Merced has an opportunity to lead by ensuring transparency, accountability, and proper governance of LGBTQ+ funding and services.

I urge you to take this issue seriously, as the County has failed to do. Without oversight, the exclusion, mismanagement, and failure to serve the LGBTQ+ community will continue.

I appreciate your time and consideration and hope to discuss this further in collaboration with City leadership.

Sincerely,

Micki Archuleta

LGBTQ+ Advocate & Community Leader

--

Micki

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--Chrissie Hynde

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## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Micki Archuleta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 6:27 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; McBride, Scott  
**Subject:** The text of my speech

So as not to catch the Council off guard next week, here is the text of my proposed speech:

Dear City Leaders,

I appreciate the City of Merced's willingness to engage with me and other community members in ensuring equitable access to services for all residents. I come to you today as a longtime advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in Merced and as a concerned resident who has witnessed troubling patterns of exclusion, financial mismanagement, and failure to provide critical services.

I do not want to air internal disputes in public, so I have submitted a letter to the Council as formal documentation of the urgent need for investigation and reform. My request is simple: The City of Merced must establish an oversight committee to ensure LGBTQ+ funding and leadership serve the actual needs of our community rather than personal interests. As I continue advocating for ethical governance and accountability in LGBTQ+ programming, I would like to formally present a proposal for the City to establish an oversight board for LGBTQ+ services or support the formation of a parallel coalition to ensure transparency and community representation.

### The Need for Oversight

Currently, LGBTQ+ services in Merced have been controlled by exclusionary leadership structures, with little transparency or accountability regarding funding, governance, or program implementation. While advocacy organizations should be working for the entire community, some of us have found ourselves pushed out of decision-making processes, leaving critical needs unmet and resources misallocated. The lack of oversight has contributed to systemic failures, including:

Out-of-county organizations receiving funding meant for Merced's LGBTQ+ residents.

Local leaders being removed from community spaces without due process.

A lack of sustainable, evidence-based programs.

Exclusionary practices that prevent community participation.

### Proposal: An LGBTQ+ Oversight Board or Parallel Coalition

I propose that the City take an active role in ensuring transparency by either:

Forming an LGBTQ+ Oversight Board within the City structure to monitor funding, program implementation, and governance of LGBTQ+ services, ensuring they meet the needs of all residents.

Working with community members to establish a parallel LGBTQ+ coalition that would serve as an independent watchdog group, offering transparent alternatives to the current structure and providing residents with an inclusive space for advocacy and governance.

### Standing Against Anti-LGBTQ+ Forces at the County Level

In addition to the issues within our city's current structures, I urge the City to take a stand against the anti-LGBTQ+ forces represented by certain county supervisors. While I recognize that the relationship between city and county jurisdictions can be complex, it is both within our legal rights and a moral imperative for Merced to defend the rights of its LGBTQ+ residents. I respectfully ask:

Is it legal for our city to actively oppose anti-LGBTQ+ policies and actions taken by county supervisors that undermine the well-being of our community?

What measures can the City undertake to ensure that such county-level actions do not negatively impact the rights and services of our LGBTQ+ residents?

I believe that clarifying the legal framework and understanding the scope of the City's authority in this matter will empower Merced to effectively advocate for and protect our community at all levels of government.

#### The Role of the City

By supporting these initiatives, the City can:

- Ensure that LGBTQ+ services are fair, transparent, and accountable.

- Challenge exclusionary practices by promoting open governance.

- Encourage community participation in decision-making.

- Provide an alternative path for residents who have been left out of current leadership structures.

- Stand up for the rights and dignity of our LGBTQ+ residents by countering anti-LGBTQ+ efforts at the county level.

This is an opportunity to set a new standard for inclusivity and accountability in Merced. I would appreciate the chance to discuss these proposals further and explore ways to work together on creating a fair, transparent, and legally sound system for LGBTQ+ services in our city.

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Micki

Everything touched is by political choice.

The life you take is your political voice.

--Chrissie Hynde

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**Levesque, Jennifer**

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**From:** Beverly Jenkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 10:44 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Agenda item K1

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I am corresponding to request the Approval of agenda Item K1 and the progress of the Resolution for adoption.

Thank you  
BEVERLY BOMERSBACH  
DISTRICT 3 RESIDENT

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**Levesque, Jennifer**

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**From:** Jean Okuye [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 1, 2025 9:08 PM  
**To:** Serratto, Matthew; cityclerk; planningweb; Strong Towns Merced  
**Subject:** <https://hbofm.org/about-us/our-history/> A success story for at any community to look at dealing with homelessness Homeward Bound of Marin

<https://hbofm.org/about-us/our-history/>

Hello,

I am addressing a concern we all have and want to help find a solution. I would like to share my experience entering a facility which housed homeless people but also had a beautiful facility for catering top quality events. When I had the opportunity to attend a private party at this facility my eyes were opened to a place which was impressive, served good food and had good service and helped people get off the street.

First I complimented the server and asked what organization owned this catering service and facility. We discussed his job and he told me he was homeless not long before but was given a place to live, was accepted into the culinary school and was very happy to help us. He expressed his gratitude.

I was referred to a staff person who told me more about the facility and program. I was shocked to hear it was originally a tent camp for homeless people in Marin.

For more information on this program go to Homeward Bound <https://hbofm.org/>

I believe working together we can find solutions. There are models which we can look at to help us. This may be one of them.

Regards,  
Jean Okuye  
president of Valley Land Alliance  
member Strongtowns.Merced

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**Levesque, Jennifer**

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**From:** beverly Schick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 12:58 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Christian flag in bob hart square

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please pass k.1 25-123 to display Christian flag in bob heart square Sent from my iPhone

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## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Glenda Small [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 10:57 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Christian Flag

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I'm not a fan of other flags being flown other than the American flag. But if flags must be flown in respect for certain members of society, I believe that the Christian flag should be flown during the holy days.

Glenda Brinsfield Small

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