



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2022

In Support of the LGBTQ+ Community

FRESNO—The Fresno County Democratic Party stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ2+ community, and their allies, local elected leaders and community organizations that seek to affirm and uphold LGBTQ2+ rights to dignity, respect and inclusion as honored and valued members of our community in the City and County of Fresno.

We condemn the hateful and exclusionary rhetoric and misinformation by Fresno City Council Member Garry Bredefeld regarding the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission's celebration of Pride event hosted by the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. His words and actions continue to stoke hostility, hatred, discrimination and incite his supporters and followers to create an unsafe environment for the Fresno LGBTQ2+ community and beyond.

Elected officials are entrusted with the sacred responsibility to represent and protect the rights of every member of the community they serve, not just those who share their ideological political views, or their religious faith and convictions. Mr. Bredefeld's repeated attacks against the LGBTQ2+ community, the Fresno EOC's Pride event and the City of Fresno's Pride flag raising ceremony is a dereliction of his duties and responsibilities as a public official and highlights how unsuitable he is to serve the people of Fresno as a city council member. His words and actions have potentially dangerous and consequential repercussions for the safety of those he blatantly and unapologetically attacks and antagonizes. We reject Mr. Bredefeld, his allies and supporters attempt to perpetuate their hateful ideology and misguided culture war.

The month of June unites the LGBTQ2+ community and celebrates equality, acceptance and is a time dedicated to uplifting and highlighting LGBTQ2+ voices and rights across the country. Although, as a society, we have made significant progress regarding LGBTQ2+ rights, we are reminded by the voices of a small, rude and unenlightened minority that seek to revoke the progress we have made, and fail to accept those they deem different, that the struggle for acceptance and inclusion is not over.

As a nation, we are at our best when we embrace, acknowledge, and celebrate the rich diversity of all members of our community without prejudice. The fight for equality has been long and difficult, but the fight for progress, equal rights, and inclusion continues and the Fresno County Democratic Party will always seek to be on the right side of history and help bend its arc toward a more just and accepting society.

Thank you,
Ruben Zarate
Chair, Fresno County Democratic Party

For more information, contact the Fresno County Democratic Party at [559-495-0606](tel:559-495-0606) or dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org.