



*Mayor Ginger Nelson*

Dear fellow leader,

In the past two weeks, several citizens have contacted me with concerns about an upcoming event at the Amarillo Globe News Center. The event is called “A Drag Queen Christmas.” I’m writing to tell you that I share concerns, and I also want to provide you with information about how events are booked at the City’s public facilities.

First, the City did not recruit this event to Amarillo. The event promoter contacted the City and inquired as to the availability of the Globe News Center on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. The space was available on the date requested and the promoter requested it to be reserved for this event. The promoter met every other requirement necessary to use the Globe News Center including providing references and paying a deposit.

I share the concerns expressed by citizens about the possible messages and content of this show. However, the City can not refuse to lease a public facility to a person or group based on the content of the event. As long as the content does not violate any law or local ordinance, the City cannot restrict or police the content due to free speech rights.

Citizens are asking if they can organize a petition to stop the show from coming. Of course, they can exercise their free speech rights and speak out against the show by a petition. However, a petition does not change the laws protecting free speech and access to public facilities and the City must abide by these laws.

Another request is that the City place an age limit for ticket sales or persons attending the event. As discussed above, the City does not review or police the content of events and is not in a position to recommend or set age limits for events. Event promoters set these limits based on their knowledge of the content of the event.

I ask for your help in communicating this information to any person in our community that has questions or concerns about this event. I am praying that this event will give our city an opportunity to engage with people who do not know Jesus and don’t share our beliefs. I pray that our kindness and compassion will be attractive to them as they visit our city and that it will lead to questions and curiosity about our beliefs. Most of all,

I’m praying that those who don’t know Jesus or His grace will meet Him in Amarillo and be changed forever. I hope you will pray with me for these things. Please call or email me if you have any questions or I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Ginger