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Michigan City Bans Pride Flags From Public Property

A Hamtramck, Michigan city council member said LGBTQ people are "already represented" as the council barred pride flags from publicly owned flagpoles.

AP AP

Jun 15, 2023, 02:15 AM EDT



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HAMTRAMCK, Mich. (AP) — A Detroit-area community has banned LGBTQ+ flags from publicly owned flagpoles after a tense hourslong

city's reputation for welcoming newcomers.

In protest, a woman speaking during the public comment portion of the Hamtramck City Council meeting kissed a woman standing next to her Tuesday night.

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During the public comments, two women who opposed the Hamtramck resolution banning LGBTQ flags from city property, one wearing a clown nose, gave a sarcastic presentation, then kissed in front of the city council:

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“You guys are welcome,” council member Nayeem Choudhury said. “(But) why do you have to have the flag shown on government property to be represented? You’re already represented. We already know who you are.”

Some members of the all-Muslim council said the pride flag clashes with the beliefs of some members of their faith. Businesses and residents aren’t prohibited from displaying a pride flag on their own property.

said.

Hamtramck, population 27,000, is an enclave surrounded by Detroit. More than 40% of residents were born in other countries, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and a significant share are of Yemeni or Bangladeshi descent.

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The council voted unanimously to display only five flags, including the American flag, the Michigan flag and one that represents the native countries of immigrant residents.

Mayor Amer Ghalib made the flag a campaign issue when then-Mayor Karen Majewski flew one on city property in 2021.

“We serve everybody equally with no discrimination but without favoritism,” he said.

Hayley Cain said she chose to live in Hamtramck after moving from California because it was known as a diverse community.

“I’m questioning whether it is. ... The pride flag represents making space for all humans on all the spectrums, and this is where we’re going as a human species,” Cain said. “You can’t stop that.”

Dawud Walid, director of the Michigan branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil rights advocacy group, said Hamtramck’s strict flag policy doesn’t discriminate against anyone.

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something while others were then we would have a problem, Walid said.

He said some Muslims who oppose an LGBTQ+ flag are no different than conservative members of other religions with similar views.

“Flags carry symbolism. Those symbols carry social and political messages,” Walid said.

Detroit City FC, a professional soccer team that draws thousands of fans to games in Hamtramck, called the council’s decision “inexcusable.”

“Pride flags send a powerful message that all are welcome and that the community values diversity,” the team said on Twitter.

Detroit City FC 
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Detroit City FC's support of the LGBTQ+ community is unwavering. We are committed to making Keyworth the most welcoming sporting venue in US sports.

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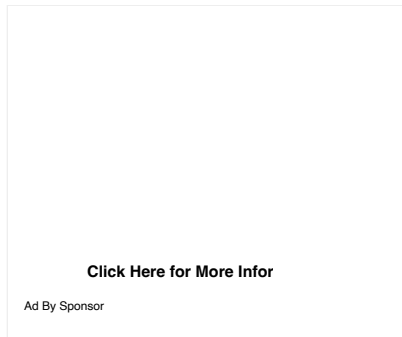
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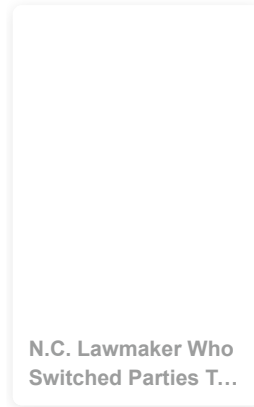


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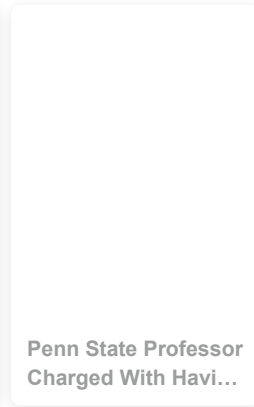
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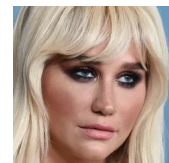
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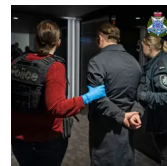


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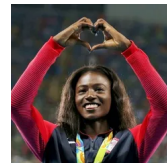
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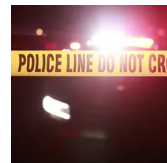
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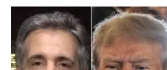
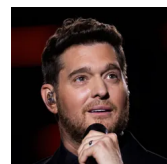
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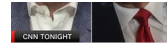


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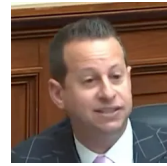


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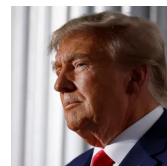
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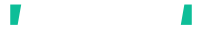
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