



September 13, 2013

Dear 2014 Gay Games Supporter:

Recent headlines prompt us to write this now, but we could have written it months ago.

Hatred by a few individuals is not unique to a particular city, state or country. Cleveland is no exception to that.

Ironically, when individuals opt to demonstrate their ignorant views by attacking another person, they actually end up acting as a catalyst for dialogue.

Yes, acting on one's hate only ignites unity among the majority, and the Cleveland+Akron community is that majority.

The community has already been working together for several years to produce the 2014 Gay Games and prepare to welcome 30,000 participants and visitors to our region.

Recent incidents have only strengthened our community's efforts to pull together to stand up for what's right and to let those few individuals know their odious views and despicable actions are not welcome.

The Gay Games have been working closely with city officials and law enforcement in every city in which a Gay Games event is being hosted—from Cleveland to Akron and the suburbs involved—to ensure a welcoming and safe atmosphere for all of our guests as well as our community. The Games also has its own safety program that will be operational during the event.

In addition, the Gay Games has partnered with The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio to offer LGBT cultural competence training programs to businesses, nonprofits and governmental agencies in a desire to further both short- and long-term commitments to LGBT understanding and diversity within organizations.

The Gay Games commends the work begun months ago by Phyllis Harris, executive director of The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, one of the oldest LGBT centers in the country, to train Cleveland police on LGBT issues.

The Federation of Gay Games selected Cleveland+Akron to host the 2014 Gay Games because it wanted to make a difference in America's heartland – to give a voice to the many shared minds and hearts who support creating a level and open playing field for all people no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

The 2014 Gay Games encourages everybody to become part of the living testament to making a difference in the heart of America and encourage open dialogue to address concerns that arise and progress that is made.

Yours truly,

Tom Nobbe
Executive Director