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Siouxland Pride Alliance

2508 Jackson Street
Sioux City, IA 51104

June 28, 2016

Matthew Ung
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors
Woodbury County Courthouse
Sioux City, IA 51101

Dear Supervisor Ung:

I am writing you on behalf of Siouxland Pride Alliance regarding the statements you made during the June 21, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting. At that meeting you stated that members of Siouxland Pride Alliance made inappropriate statements directed towards you and your wife. You also indicated that you had screen shots of said statements. You specifically detailed a list of 13 comments, which are listed below.

1. Idiot
2. Moron
3. Vile
4. Ignorant bigot
5. Despicable person
6. Homophobic
7. Ass
8. Ass wipe
9. Whore
10. "D bag"
11. "F Matthew Ung" [You stated that this was also yelled at your wife but you did not state when this occurred.]
12. Bitch slapped
13. That your U.S. citizen wife is an undocumented alien

You appear to have erroneously assumed that only Siouxland Pride Alliance members can access our Facebook page. In fact, anyone with access to a Facebook account can post on our page. As a young person who appears to be adept at Facebook and other social media, I would assume that you are aware of this.

No person affiliated with Siouxland Pride Alliance made any such comments on our Facebook page. You have defamed our organization. Whether this was intentional or in

error, I would caution you to cease and desist from doing so in the future. Further, I hope that you do not make such careless assumptions in your work as a County Supervisor.

I reviewed our Facebook page to determine whether any of the alleged comments were actually made, and, if they were, by whom. I was only able to find seven of the comments, made by four individuals. They are as follows:

1. A woman stated that "Idiot does not even begin to describe this person."
2. A woman stated that you "tried to fill my teenage daughter full of his homophobic beliefs" while you were campaigning for public office a few years ago.
3. A woman stated [in pertinent part] that "He just needs to be bitch-slapped like the attention-whore that he is and go back to the pasture with the rest of the sheeple." This individual also indicated that you are the son and husband of immigrants. She did not state that they were undocumented aliens.
4. A man indicated that you are an "ignorant bigot" and that he hopes that you are "aware what an ass the community thinks Matthew Ung actually is."

None of these individuals has ever attended a Siouxland Pride Alliance meeting nor are they affiliated in any way with our organization. Rather, they appear to be your constituents exercising their First Amendment rights to speak about your posting following the largest mass shooting in the U.S.

Further, I spoke to all Siouxland Pride Alliance members and none reported posting a comment on our Facebook page and later deleting it.

One member did indicate that they reposted your post and stated "Share Matthew A. Ung's vile contempt and hatred far and wide!" If this is fact where you located said comment, perhaps it would be wise for you to refrain from searching for posts to be offended about.

If you are in possession of screen shots of the other, more troublesome statements please provide us with copies of them by July 8, 2016 so that we may take appropriate action. Although we believe in the free speech rights of all people, we reserve the right to address harassing or otherwise inappropriate statements.

A secondary issue is whether any statements made on the Siouxland Pride Alliance Facebook page would be considered harassing to a reasonable person in like circumstances. Politicians are regularly subjected to a level of feedback that a private citizen would never have to endure. The four comments listed above would not appear to meet the burden of being harassing to a similarly-situated reasonable person.

It can be difficult to hold public office. To be a servant leader one has to have very thick skin. If you find being called "despicable person," "idiot" or even an "ass" particularly offensive, serving on the Board of Supervisors will be difficult for you. I imagine that if you sought counsel from the more experienced members of the Board you would find that they have experienced far worse, probably on a regular basis.

You would also likely find that each one of them has apologized for things that they may not have thought they did wrong. They apologized because it was the right thing to do when they realized that they had offended a member of the public. It is not an issue of a lack of conviction; it is about having the maturity to know that an apology is appropriate.

You must understand that, in the context of your previous inappropriate remarks on Facebook, your constituents will be watching what you say. This is not being bullied or harassed but is solely based on your previous poor choices.

On November 9, 2014 you asked us to "hold you accountable." That is what citizens of this county attempted to do last week. Instead of issuing a simple apology you accused them of bullying you. You are capable of better than that.

Sincerely yours,



Karen Mackey for
Siouxland Pride Alliance