



Lesbian and Gay
Community Network
of Western Michigan

P.O. BOX 6527 GRAND RAPIDS, MI. 49516

March 6, 1989

The Honorable Gerald Helmholdt
Mayor, City of Grand Rapids

Dear Mr. Helmholdt:

We have reserved the amphitheater for June 18 this year for our second gay pride celebration. Last year some 500 to 700 gay people and their supporters spent a wonderful afternoon together to celebrate a part of human diversity that is not very well understood by many people. It is not well understood because homosexuality is surrounded in our society with false myth and stereotypes that do not correspond with the reality of gay people. That reality is simply that gay people are good and decent people and they deserve to live their lives with the same social, religious, and governmental support as non-gay people.

We will no longer accept the false images with which our society portrays us. We insist on being treated with the respect and dignity that is our birthright. We freely give to society the talents we have and we expect in return the full rights of citizenship.

On the week of June 18, 1989, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion in New York City, hundreds of thousands of gay people in dozens of cities will be reading gay pride proclamations from their mayors and city councils. We would also like to read a proclamation from our mayor showing that Grand Rapids cares about its gay citizens. I would like to talk to you about that proclamation sometime soon. I am available during the week anytime before 10AM. We could perhaps meet for breakfast somewhere if that would be convenient for you. You can reach me at home at 245-1684 or by mail at 615 College SE, 49503, or through the Network at the above address.

Please reserve me some time at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely:

Bryan Ribbens
President