

8/20/2018

Edcgov.us Mail - Fwd: EDHAPAC_DR-R18-0001_Saratoga_Retail_Phase2_Aug18-2018.pdf

PC 8-23-18
#7
3 Pages



Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Fwd: EDHAPAC_DR-R18-0001_Saratoga_Retail_Phase2_Aug18-2018.pdf

1 message

Char Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>
To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 7:51 AM

----- Forwarded message -----


From: **Timothy White** <tjwhitejd@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Aug 18, 2018 at 11:20 AM
Subject: EDHAPAC_DR-R18-0001_Saratoga_Retail_Phase2_Aug18-2018.pdf
To: Char Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>
Cc: gary.miller@edcgov.us, jeff.hansen@edcgov.us, james.williams@edcgov.us, brian.shinault@edcgov.us, jvegna@edcgov.us, bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us

Dear Ms. Tim.

Attached please find The El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee's Comment Letter on the Saratoga Retail Phase 2 Project.

Please include it as an official Public Comment to File # 18-1215 on the Planning Commission's August 23, 2018 Agenda. Thank you.

Timothy J. White- EDHAPAC Chair

 **EDHAPAC_DR-R18-0001_Saratoga_Retail_Phase2_Aug18-2018.pdf**
105K



El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee

1021 Harvard Way
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

2018 Board Chair

Tim White

Vice Chair

John Raslear

Secretary

Kathy Prevost

Vice Chair

John Davey

August 17, 2018

The County of El Dorado Planning Commission
The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado Planning and Building Department
El Dorado County Planning Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

DR-R18-0001 Saratoga Retail Phase 2

The voting members of The El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee (“EDHAPAC”) voted unanimously to file a letter of Non-Support for the Project. After reviewing the documents on file for the Project at the Planning Department’s and the Planning Commission’s websites, EDHAPAC believes significant issues regarding traffic, RV parking and design review standards remain, and until those issues are answered and addressed this Project should not be allowed to proceed.

RV PARKING - Mr. Joel Wiley, an experienced RV owner and driver, sent a Public Comment to the Planning Commission raising several concerns regarding both the size of the 2 allocated RV parking spaces and the tight turns necessary to get into and out of those spaces. We suspect that these spaces are designed on a computer in an office, but do the people who do the design have any real-life experience driving and maneuvering an RV? Does any member of Planning Department Staff responsible for reviewing and/or approving the RV parking space layout have any real-life experience driving and maneuvering an RV? Have they ever set up plastic cones in a parking lot with the dimensions of the spaces and turns planned for the Project and tried to maneuver an RV in and out? Is there a State of California, or El Dorado County ordinance addressing the definition, requirements, and design elements of what constitutes an RV parking space?

There are further issues and concerns about the whole RV Parking requirements for the Project that are addressed with great specificity in the Public Comment from 8 neighborhood residents (the “Washburn/Camom Comment”) received by the Planning Commission on August 13, 2018, and those comments adequately reflect the issues and concerns of EDHAPAC, and thus are incorporated herein by reference.

TRAFFIC – Many of the issues and concerns that EDHAPAC has with the traffic that would be generated by a busy and popular drive-thru restaurant located next to a residential neighborhood are

El Dorado Hills APAC - Non-partisan Volunteers Planning Our Future

addressed with great specificity in the Washburn/Camom Comment, and thus those comments are incorporated herein by reference.

Additionally, EDHAPAC finds it extremely “interesting” that there are disparate current condition and near-term condition traffic impact data for 3 different project’s Traffic Study in the immediate area in a 4-year time span, two of which are provided by the same traffic analysis consultant. [DR-R18-0001 Saratoga Retail Phase II, TM14-1520/Z14-0007/PD14-0006 Saratoga Estates, and A16-0001/RZ16-0004/PD94-0004-R El Dorado Hills Apartments]. Those traffic analysis numbers are seemingly tailored differently for each project to achieve a finding of No Significant Impact or Less Than Significant Impact – i.e those numbers and statistics appear to be modeled to achieve a desired result. EDHAPAC also questions whether traffic impacts generated by the Project that exceed Measure E triggers can be mitigated by TIM Fee contributions from multiple other projects that may, or may not, happen at some uncertain, undefined future date.

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION- EDHAPAC is concerned and bewildered that Planning Department Staff would prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this Project that does not address (in fact, completely ignores) the County of El Dorado Ordinance governing drive thru facilities. The Community Design Standards for Parking and Lodging, Section H, 1-8 mandates that drive thru facilities SHALL (not “should” or “can” but “shall”) comply with the circulation and traffic control standards set forth therein. Subsection 2. provides that ingress to and egress from a drive thru facility shall be prohibited from driveways directly facing a residential zone. All 4 proposed access driveways for this Project face a Residential Neighborhood- obviously zoned residential! The reason the County of El Dorado mandated the 8 specific compliance standards goes to the heart of the issue with a drive thru restaurant at this location – it is located immediately adjacent to a long-established residential neighborhood, and the County’s intent was and is to protect residential neighborhoods from the intrusiveness of such an establishment.

EDHAPAC has valid concerns about this Project at this location – the nearby residents in the Washburn/Camom Comment have set forth in detail and with specificity legitimate and significant negative impacts that the operation of a drive thru restaurant adjacent to their homes would have in terms of traffic, noise, air quality, visual blight, crime and the quiet enjoyment of their property. Assuming for the sake of argument that the Project proponent has a right to build the Project as presented, it does not mean that it is the right thing to do. To quote G. Guga Mona “It is better to wait until you get the right thing, at the right time and in the right place; than to race for the wrong thing, at the wrong time and in the wrong place...”.

As always, EDHAPAC appreciates the Planning Commissioners for listening to our concerns, appreciates the assistance provided by Planning Department Staff in our review of this Project, and wishes to thank the Project Proponent and the members of his team for attending the EDHAPAC meeting and answering questions about the Project.

Sincerely,
Timothy J. White – EDHAPAC Chair

cc: Read File



Saratoga Retail Phase 2, DR-R18-0001 (Previously Denied DR 08-0003-R)

1 message

Brandy Dollins <bMLEA74@yahoo.com>

Sat, Aug 18, 2018 at 1:48 PM

To: chartim@edcgov.us, "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, "planning@edcgov.us" <planning@edcgov.us>, "bMLEA74@yahoo.com" <bMLEA74@yahoo.com>

County of El Dorado Planning Commission

Charlene Tim, Clerk of the Planning Commission
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Saratoga Retail Phase 2, DR-R18-0001 (Previously Denied DR 08-0003-R)

I strongly encourage DR-R18-0001 (Previously Denied DR 08-0003-R) /Saratoga Retail be denied with prejudice. The phase 2 design revision is a **major change** from the original 2009 project plan and will have significant negative impacts to the nearby residents of Park Village neighborhood.

The following concerns raised against DR-08-0003 are not addressed with DR-R18-0001. The plan for phase 2 is not a significant change from the plan that was previously denied:

- **Noise** of added HVAC systems, delivery trucks, drive through speakers and high volume idling traffic, including diesel trucks. The existing sound wall does not mitigate noise from the bedrooms of the two story townhomes situated above the sound wall.
- **Safety issues** from generating cut through traffic within the adjacent neighborhood where there are many kids, and pedestrians but no sidewalks!!
- **Light pollution** from overhead signs and car lights at night.
- **Traffic backup** on El Dorado Hills Blvd and Saratoga Way due to lack of sufficient parking for vehicles and RVs, impeding the ability of area residents to enter the neighborhood.
- **Excessive noise and air pollution** generated by **Service level F traffic**.
- **Decreased property values** resulting in **neighborhood decay and increased crime**.

Noise, traffic, safety and environmental impact studies should be properly conducted to consider the collective impact to area residents of all planned business operations within the project plan. Any businesses approved for the location should be closed by 9:00 PM (and preferably 8:00 PM to accommodate the sleep requirements of children), and should not be tourist attracting businesses that generate ongoing excessive noise and traffic the area is not designed to support.

Situating a fast food drive thru establishment directly facing a residential neighborhood will erode the area. The plan threatens to jeopardize the health, safety and quality of life of nearby residents. Many of us who moved to the neighborhood looking to improve our quality of life, never imagined looking out of our windows directly at a high volume fast food drive through every day. I called the City Planning Dept before finalizing the offer on my property. They said there was commercial zoning, but nothing planned. The sign on the lot said retail. I imagined retail spaces, offices, or possibly a sit down restaurant. I was looking for a home to settle into long term, but now, after just 4 years, will prepare to leave if this plan is approved. Being surrounded by high traffic, noise, low air quality, and safety issues will make living here no longer feel like an improvement. Why should I continue to pay more to live here? Property values will go down due to this common perception.

Fast food does not contribute to a healthy lifestyle. When situated directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood, it becomes easy access to unhealthy food, unhealthy air, causes traffic stress, noise stress, light pollution and will interfere with sleep. Unhealthy food, toxins such as air pollution, stress and lack of sleep are primary contributors to the common chronic diseases we face today including cancer, diabetes, obesity, heart attack and stroke. Heavy traffic will also raise the risk of accidents inherent anywhere

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Edcgov.us Mail - Saratoga Retail Phase 2, DR-R18-0001 (Previously Denied DR 08-0003-R)

there are busy driveways and sidewalks intersecting. Fast food does not serve a safe and healthy community, is not needed, and is not appropriate near any residential neighborhood.

El Dorado Hills is growing rapidly. The development decisions happening now will shape our town and have permanent implications. Please consider the long-term goals and vision for development. A town that focuses on healthy lifestyles and improving quality of life will attract people. The goal should be to build a town where visitors will find a place they want to live and stay, rather than leave.

Please distribute this letter to every member of the planning commission and add it to the public record for DR-08-0003 Saratoga Retail public file.

Respectfully,

Brandy Dollins
3911 Hills Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762



DR R18-0001 Saratoga Retail Phase 2

1 message

Matt Emrick <matthew@mlelaw.com>

Sat, Aug 18, 2018 at 10:17 PM

Reply-To: Matt Emrick <matthew@mlelaw.com>

To: "planning@edcgov.us" <planning@edcgov.us>

Cc: "charlene.tim@edcgov.us" <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>, "roger.trout@edcgov.us" <roger.trout@edcgov.us>

Dear El Dorado County and Hon. Planning Commission:

These are a few follow-up comments on the DR R18-0001 Saratoga Retail Phase 2 and Mitigated Negative Declaration. They supplement my prior comments submitted in both 2018 and 2017 which are incorporated by reference into these comments.

The following are my additional comments:

1. From what I was able to determine from the on-line documents, the Saratoga Estates EIR never analyzed traffic impacts for the expansion of the Shops in its original form, much less as a Drive-Thru restaurant project. Nor did the Ambulatory Surgery Center (found exempt from CEQA) nor did the original Negative Declaration for Walgreens/Shops Phase 1. What this means is that the cumulative impacts of all these project to traffic, noise, and air quality have never been properly analyzed or disclosed to the public or the decision makers. It also means that no proper analysis was performed to properly determine the impacts to adjacent neighborhoods from traffic, noise, and air quality.
2. The present project Negative Declaration fails to consider the impacts on local feeder roads including the impacts of cut-through traffic. This analysis is not in the Saratoga Estates EIR because that EIR did not analyze Saratoga Retail Phase 2 much less as a fast food drive-through development.

3. The above situation demonstrates that the impacts of traffic, noise, air quality have all been minimized by improper piecemealing of those impacts. I believe this was done purposely to avoid the disclosure of the real long term impacts of these issues on Saratoga and the adjacent neighborhoods because the 2010 proposed EIR for the Saratoga Connector Project showed severe impacts of over new 15,000 vehicle trips per day (not even considering traffic attributable to fast-food at that time because the present project was not proposed then). THIS is why an EIR for this projects is required if the project is to move forward. THIS is why real mitigation is required as part of this project if it is to move forward (cross walks, signals, expanded shoulders on the project side of Saratoga, etc.)

4. I understand the Developer is proposing synchronizing traffic lights on EDH Blvd as a potential mitigation and alternative to constructing a longer left turn lane from EDH Blvd onto Saratoga. There is so much wrong with this proposal it is hard to even know where to start. How is allowing huge amounts of traffic to be dumped onto Saratoga going to impact traffic trying to cross onto Saratoga from Mammouth? From Arrowhead? That is not analyzed anywhere. What would be the impacts of holding traffic up on EDH Blvd heading south on the intersection of EDH and Lassen/Serrano Pkwy? This is not analyzed anywhere either. How long will traffic have to sit at the stop light heading out of Raley's? That traffic is held up now due to the exit being only two lanes (one in and one out). The neighborhood and the community should not have to bear these burdens created by this project just because the Developer refuses to spend money to do the proper environmental review and to properly mitigate the Project.

As I have said, I have no animosity towards the developer and want him to be able to develop this property lawfully. I was part of the group that worked with him on the Walgreens part of this

project (he made enforceable promises regarding further development that this project does not honor). I live directly across from Walgreens. And I am a huge Chick-fil-A fan. But this is the wrong project for this property and neighborhood. It really is that simple.

Sincerely,

Matthew Emrick

3881 Scenic Court, EDH, CA 95762
(916) 337-0361

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666 Pages



Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Fwd: Saratoga Retail Phase 2 DR-R 18-0001

1 message

Char Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>
To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

Mon, Aug 20, 2018 at 7:53 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Miranda James** <miranda.james2548@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 19, 2018 at 10:26 PM
Subject: Saratoga Retail Phase 2 DR-R 18-0001
To: jvegna@edcgov.us, james.williams@edcgov.us, gary.miller@edcgov.us, jeff.hansen@edcgov.us, brian.shinault@edcgov.us, charlene.tim@edcgov.us
Cc: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, tjwhitejd@gmail.com, john.hidahl@edcgov.us

Please add the attached letter and documents to the public record for Saratoga Retail Phase 2 DR-R-0001.

Kindly,
Miranda James

10 attachments

- Dear Commissioners and BOS.docx**
119K
- FACT CHECK_ Chick-fil-A and Same-Sex Marriage - Copy.pdf**
5289K
- New Chick-fil-A filings show decrease in anti-LGBT funding _ QNotes - Copy.pdf**
1965K
- Non-profit decides that Chick-fil-A's CEO should give keynote speech at 'equality' conference – ThinkProgress - Copy.pdf**
2598K
- Rubio's 'personal view' defense of Chick-fil-A is bogus. Here are the receipts. – ThinkProgress - Copy.pdf**
1460K
- You are not welcome here - Copy.pdf**
209K
- Canadians Are Petitioning To Ban Chick-Fil-A From Expanding Into Canada, Here's Why - Narcity - Copy.pdf**
1023K
- Chick-Fil-A Donated Nearly \$2 Million To Anti-Gay Groups In 2010 _ Equality Matters - Copy.pdf**
233K
- Chick-Fil-A Is Not Welcome at Johns Hopkins University - Eater - Copy.pdf**
858K
- Chick-fil-A same-sex marriage controversy - Wikipedia - Copy.pdf**
345K

To the County Commissioners and Board of Supervisors,

The arguments I have heard in favor of Chick Fil A have referenced what a great community member they are. What I hear from these neighbors is Chick Fil A represents *their* community, which doesn't take into account that it doesn't represent ALL of our community. Chick Fil A has a long history of alienating the LGBTQ community through their public statements and donations to charities that are openly anti-gay. Does this addition of Chick Fil A at the most prominent spot in El Dorado Hills really represent us?

Some of the many charities that Chick Fil has donated millions to:

Fellowship Of Christian Athletes Conference Has "Freed" People From Homosexuality. Every year, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) holds a National College Conference that Danny Burns, the conference Program Director, described as one in which "God freed some people from homosexuality, sexual sins, addictions and even ushered newcomers into His Kingdom." Burns' comment has since been removed from FCA's website.

WinShape Donated \$480,000 To FCA. WinShape donated \$480,000 to FCA in 2010.

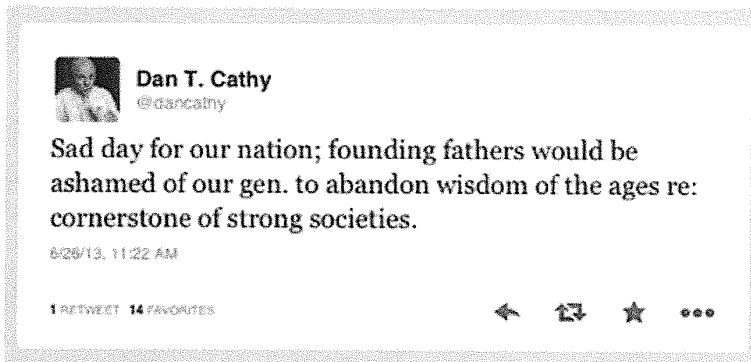
Exodus International Promotes "Ex-Gay" Therapy. Exodus International is a major promoter of "ex-gay" therapy, the practice of trying to change a person's sexual orientation from gay to straight. The organization refers to being LGBT as "perverse" and a form of "sexual brokenness." **WinShape Donated \$1,000 To Exodus International.** WinShape donated \$1,000 to Exodus International in 2010

Family Research Council Is Designated As An Anti-Gay Hate Group By the SPLC. The Family Research Council has been labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for its propagation of known falsehoods about the LGBT community. For example, president Tony Perkins has a long history of false and inflammatory attacks, such as claiming that pedophilia is a "homosexual problem." **WinShape Donated \$1,000 To Family Research Council.** WinShape donated \$1,000 to the Family Research Council in 2010. Retrieved from <http://equalitymatters.org/factcheck/201207020001>]

Founders public comments on LGBTQ rights & community:

Chick-fil-A President and COO Dan Cathy posted and then deleted a seemingly anti-homosexual statement on Twitter yesterday following the Supreme Court's landmark ruling supporting marriage equality. Retrieved from: <https://www.eater.com/2013/6/27/6412993/chick-fil-a-president-deletes-tweet-calling-doma-ruling-a-sad-day-for>

"Sad day for our nation; founding fathers would be ashamed of our gen. to abandon wisdom of the ages re: cornerstone of strong societies."



Chick-fil-A is “very much supportive of the family,” according to Dan Cathy, president of the popular fast food chain. That is, “the biblical definition of the family unit,” he said. And that doesn’t include Adam and Steve

“We are very much supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit,” Cathy said. “We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that.”

“I think we are inviting God’s judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say ‘we know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage’ and I pray God’s mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about,” Cathy also said during an appearance on the Ken Coleman talk show. Retrieved from: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/chick-fil-a-gay-marriage/>

The company, for example, does not offer non-discrimination protections for LGBT employees and it does not offer benefits for LGBT employees’ partners. Cormer, M. (2014, March 3) *New Chick-fil-A filings show decrease in anti-LGBT funding*. Retrieved from <https://goqnotes.com/27860/new-chick-fil-a-filings-show-decrease-in-anti-lgbt-funding/>

Jim Henson Company cuts ties with the chain:

Chick-fil-A had recently joined forces with the Jim Henson Company to offer five customizable puppet toys from Jim Henson’s Creature Shop in children’s meals. But after the Atlanta-based family-owned business made headlines when its president, Dan Cathy, told the Baptist Press recently that the company was “guilty as charged” when it came to not supporting marriage equality and standing by biblical family values, the Henson Company decided to end the partnership. Retrieved from <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/chick-fil-a-gay-marriage/>

Five years ago, Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy vowed to stay out of the debate on LGBTQ rights and to “treat every person with honor, dignity and respect-regardless of their beliefs, race, creed, sexual orientation and gender.” Yet the company has still not adopted an LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination policy, **STILL** receives a 0 on the Human Rights Campaign’s corporate equality scorecard, and still gives generously to anti-LGBTQ causes.

More than \$1,500,000 of that went to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and its local affiliates. The group seeks to use athletes and coaches to spread Christian teachings and impart an anti-LGBTQ message. All those who work for the organization must adhere to a strict “sexual purity” policy, barring any “homosexual acts,” even for married couples. The group’s Campus Playbook teaches young leaders that “God’s design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman to complement and complete each other. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society.”

More than \$130,000 went to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, a Georgia-based “Christian residential home for troubled youth.” They teach boys the dangerous myth that “sexual, physical, and mental abuse of children, mostly in the alleged ‘safety’ of their own homes has produced all kinds of evil throughout the culture to include the explosion of homosexuality in the last century,” that “homosexual behavior and lifestyle” are lawlessness, and that same-sex marriage is “rage against Jesus Christ and His values.” Retrieved from:
<https://thinkprogress.org/sorry-marco-rubio-chick-fil-still-anti-lgbtq-083e28896fad-c27d2f72e52b-29c662a73b7c-9cd823511a46/>

Only a few weeks ago, the announcement of Chick Fil A moving to Canada was met with harsh criticism of bigotry and homophobia. A petition with 46,000 signatures has been collected, proving the chain is not viewed as a good community member by all. Retrieved from:
<https://www.businessinsider.com/chick-fil-a-opening-in-canada-sparks-boycott-threats-2018-7>

Lastly, the Folsom location currently serves the El Dorado Hills community for fundraisers, school programs and events, so to say the denial of this location would be a loss for the community is not true. They reap all of the benefits of the Folsom location already. The current Chick Fil A marketing budget has no issue covering the El Dorado Hills community according to the Folsom Marketing Manager.

In conclusion, whether or not you agree with Chick Fil A’s stance on LGBTQ rights, they do not represent ALL of El Dorado Hills and are clearly **STILL** a VERY controversial choice to be the beacon of El Dorado Hills. Given the above and attached information on the restaurant’s track record, Chick Fil A cannot be touted as a good member of the community nor would it be a great loss if they were denied by the commissioners and BOS.

Sincerely,
Concerned El Dorado Hills Resident



Chick-fil-A and Same-Sex Marriage

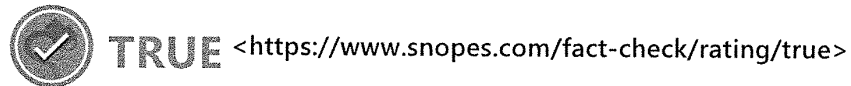
The Chick-fil-A fast food chain has been criticized for donating money to organizations that oppose same-sex marriage.



CLAIM

Chick-fil-A has donated money to organizations that oppose same-sex marriage.

RATING



ORIGIN

Chick-fil-A is a Georgia-based fast food restaurant chain specializing in chicken entrées that opened its first outlet in suburban Atlanta in 1967 and has since grown to encompass over 1,600 restaurants in 39 states. The operations of the chain reflect the religious values of Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer S. Truett Cathy, whose [biography](http://www.chick-fil-a.com/Company/Bio-Page/Truett) <<http://www.chick-fil-a.com/Company/Bio-Page/Truett>> notes that he has "built his life and business based on hard work, humility and biblical principles" and that "based on these principles, all of Chick-fil-A's restaurants operate with a 'Closed-on-Sunday' policy, without exception."

Chick-fil-A has been the subject of political controversy due to its WinShape Foundation, a charitable endeavor founded by S. Truett Cathy and his wife, Jeanette, which critics contend has evidenced a bias in the Chick-fil-A company by [donating](http://equalitymatters.org/factcheck/201207020001) <<http://equalitymatters.org/factcheck/201207020001>> millions of dollars to groups with anti-gay agendas:

Let's all eat at Chick-Fil-A this week.

Now the Socialists (AKA Obama Democrats) have targeted Chick-Fil-A, a Southern based company with the below resume. I think, I'll have a Chick-Fil-A sandwich tomorrow.

Chick-fil-A is an American success story. Founded by Georgian entrepreneur Truett Cathy in 1946, the family-owned chicken-sandwich chain is one of the country's largest fast-food businesses. It employs some 50,000 workers across the country at 1,500 outlets in nearly 40 states and the District of Columbia ... The company generates more than \$2 billion in revenue and serves millions of happy customers with trademark Southern hospitality.

So, what's the problem? Well, Chick-fil-A is run by devout Christians who believe in strong marriages, devoted families, and the highest standards of character for their workers. The restaurant chain's official corporate mission is to "glorify God" and "enrich the lives of everyone we touch." The company's community-service initiatives, funded through its WinShape Foundation, support foster-care, scholarship, summer-camp, and marriage-enrichment programs. On Sunday, all Chick-fil-A stores close so workers can spend the day at worship and rest.

Over the past month, several progressive-activist blogs have waged an ugly war against Chick-fil-A. The company's alleged atrocity: One of its independent outlets in Pennsylvania donated some sandwiches and brownies to a marriage seminar run by the Pennsylvania Family Institute, which happens to oppose same-sex marriage.

In the name of tolerance, the anti-Chick-fil-A hawks sneered at the company's main product as "Jesus Chicken," derided its no-Sunday-work policy, and attacked its operators as "anti-gay." Petition drives on websites are demanding the company change and disavow their standards. Facebook users dutifully organized witch hunts against the company on college campuses.

Progressive groups are gloating over Chick-fil-A's public-relations troubles. This is not because they care about winning hearts and minds over gay rights or marriage policy, but because their core objective is to marginalize political opponents and chill Christian philanthropy and activism. The fearsome "muscle flexing" is being done by the hysterical bullies trying to drive them off of college grounds and out of their neighborhoods in the name of "human rights."

Clearly the Christian business man who lives what he believes deserves our support....Thank God that some people are strong enough to stand up for what they believe even in the face of assault and ridicule from those who have no integrity....Let's all eat at Chick-fil-A. —

Let's all eat Chick-Fil-A! Truet Cathy founded a wonderful company who hires teenagers and pays their way to college. Not only that, it is delicious. These people are undermining American strongholds in order to weaken us for the enemy within and the enemy without!

Please pass this on if you believe companies with Christian principles have a right to freely conduct business in the U.S.

As a result, Chick-fil-A has recently faced opposition from students at ten U.S. universities, including New York University (NYU), who have circulated petitions to oppose the opening of new Chick-fil-A franchises on their campuses and lobbied for the removal of existing restaurants. The company has maintained that neither they nor the organizations they donate to through WinShape has an "anti-gay" agenda:

The student senate at Northeastern University, in Boston, voted to end negotiations to bring fast-food chain Chick-fil-A to campus after students protested over the company's affiliation with several Christian organizations the students say have an "anti-gay" agenda. The Atlanta-based company, dogged for months by accusations of homophobia, insists it is "not anti-anybody" but instead simply wants to "graciously serve great food and have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A."

Company president Dan Cathy insists Chick-fil-A is not a Christian company, just one founded on biblical principles. But thanks in part to the company's affiliation with pro-family groups, its frequent presence at large religious rallies and the praise music reverberating from speakers in its restaurants, both fans and detractors often refer to it as one of the country's most overtly Christian businesses.

Through the WinShape Foundation, started by company founders Truett and Jeannette Cathy, Chick-fil-A donates to several Christian organizations, including The Marriage & Family Legacy Fund, The Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the National Christian Foundation. According to its statement, Chick-fil-A has given the groups \$1,714,199. None of the organizations the company supports has an "anti-gay" agenda, although as Christian groups, they do uphold and support heterosexual marriage, Donald A. Perry, the company's vice president of corporate public relations, said in his statement.

"I want to assure you that the historical intent of our Foundation and corporate giving have been toward compassion, principally by serving youth and families," he said. The company gives millions of dollars every year toward education.

Chick-fil-A president and chief operating officer Dan Cathy's July 2012 [interview](http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38271) <<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38271>> with the *Baptist Press* generated even more controversy over the issue, with critics maintaining he had virtually acknowledged the company supports an anti-gay marriage agenda:

Chick-fil-A is "very much supportive of the family," according to Dan Cathy, president of the popular fast food chain. That is, "the biblical definition of the family unit," he said. And that doesn't include Adam and Steve, suggests Cathy, whose father S. Truett Cathy founded the Atlanta-based company.

In a new interview with Baptist Press, Cathy puts on the record what critics say his company's actions have indicated for years. "Well, guilty as charged," he said in the interview when asked about Chick-fil-A's backing of families led by a man and a woman.

The controversy took flight in mid-July after Cathy gave an interview to the *Biblical Recorder*, an online journal for Baptists in North Carolina. In the July 2 story — picked up by the Baptist Press on July 16 — Cathy affirmed that his company backs the traditional family unit.

"We are very much supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit," Cathy said. "We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

"I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say 'we know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage' and I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about," Cathy also said during an appearance on the Ken Coleman talk show.

Proponents of same-sex marriage spread Cathy's comments, eventually creating a firestorm of criticism on social media, including assertions that his comments and position were bigoted and hateful.

The public reaction to Cathy's remarks prompted Chick-fil-A to issue the following statement:

The Chick-fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender. We will continue this tradition in the over 1,600 Restaurants run by independent Owner/Operators. Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena.

8/16/2018

FACT CHECK: Chick-fil-A and Same-Sex Marriage

This controversy prompted readers to ask us about a number of related ancillary issues detailed below:

- Yes, it is true that in July 2012, the Jim Henson Company announced it was severing its partnership with Chick-fil-A to supply toys for the chain's children's meals:

Chick-fil-A had recently joined forces with the Jim Henson Company to offer five customizable puppet toys from Jim Henson's Creature Shop in children's meals. But after the Atlanta-based family-owned business made headlines when its president, Dan Cathy, told the Baptist Press recently that the company was "guilty as charged" when it came to not supporting marriage equality and standing by biblical family values, the Henson Company decided to end the partnership.

Shortly afterwards, some Chick-fil-A outlets posted signs http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/24/chick-fil-a-jim-henson-toy-recall-gay_n_1699597.html indicating the chain was initiating a voluntary "withdrawal" or "recall" of the Henson-produced toys:

The Jim Henson Company announced it would no longer partner with Chick-fil-A in the wake of the fast food company's acknowledged support of anti-gay organizations. Now, however, Chick-fil-A officials are reportedly telling franchise customers that the kids' meal toys which were produced as part of the now-severed collaboration have been recalled due to safety issues. Chick-Fil-A spokeswoman Tiffany Greenway [said] that the company had decided to recall the Muppets toys nationwide "for the protection of our customers." She said it was a decision completely separate from the Jim Henson Company's announcement.

- It was also true that Boston mayor Thomas M. Menino sent a letter <http://bostonherald.com/news/document.bg?f=misc/Chick-fil-A-1&h=Mayor%27s%20letter%20to%20Chick-fil-A&p=&k=bh> to Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy urging the company to reconsider its plans to open an outlet in Boston (although the mayor's ability to enforce his suggestion without running afoul of first amendment restrictions is questionable):

Mayor Thomas M. Menino is vowing to block Chick-fil-A from bringing its Southern-fried fast-food empire to Boston — possibly to a popular tourist spot just steps from the Freedom Trail — after the family-owned firm’s president suggested gay marriage is “inviting God’s judgment on our nation.” “Chick-fil-A doesn’t belong in Boston. You can’t have a business in the city of Boston that discriminates against a population. We’re an open city, we’re a city that’s at the forefront of inclusion,” Menino [said].

“That’s the Freedom Trail. That’s where it all started right here. And we’re not going to have a company, Chick-fil-A or whatever the hell the name is, on our Freedom Trail.”

- A couple of widely-circulated pieces about Chick-fil-A and other fast food outlets were merely bits of satirical political humor, not genuine news items: On 24 July 2012, the satirical *Onion* web site spoofed the Chick-fil-A controversy by publishing <http://www.theonion.com/articles/chickfila-debuts-new-homophobic-sandwich,28888/> an article titled “Chick-Fil-A Debuts New Homophobic Sandwich”:

As part of its recent efforts to publicly align itself with fundamentalist Christian values, the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain announced the debut of its new Queer-Hatin’ Cordon Bleu sandwich that would be on sale in all of the company’s 1,600 restaurants. In a press conference to reporters, company representatives said the homophobic new sandwich will include the national fast food chain’s trademark fried chicken filet wrapped in a piece of specially-smoked No Homo ham that would be topped with a slice of Swiss cheese and lathered in a creamy new Thousand Island-based Fag Punching sauce.

A similar Onion blurb spoofing the Chick-fil-a controversy was [published](http://www.theonion.com/articles/wendys-wants-consumers-to-know-its-fine-with-gays,28985/) <http://www.theonion.com/articles/wendys-wants-consumers-to-know-its-fine-with-gays,28985/> on 30 July 2012:

Responding to Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy's recent controversial admission of the company's donations to antigay groups, a statement from competing fast food chain Wendy's let consumers know that it has long supported same-sex couples and only harbors strong objections to interracial marriage. "It's important that Wendy's customers know our restaurant proudly stands by the right of all Americans to marry whomever they choose, so long as it isn't someone of a different race," said spokeswoman Jenna Knox, adding that while Wendy's has always backed pro-gay legislation, it found miscegenation "an abominable offense to God's will."

"Just like our founder Dave Thomas, we dream of living in an America where two loving people of the same sex can freely wed, provided of course that both people are also of the same race, and that no black, Asian, Latin American, or other non-European heritage is allowed to de-purify the white racial bloodline."

Following the Wendy's statement, executives from Jack in the Box confirmed that they too had always supported gay rights and the Holocaust never happened.

- As we detailed in a separate [article <https://www.snopes.com/photos/signs/chickfila.asp>](https://www.snopes.com/photos/signs/chickfila.asp), various images of signs from other fast food signs offering support or criticism of Chick-fil-A were digital fabrications, not real photographs.
- Some readers asked, "Did Chick-fil-A really spend millions lobbying Congress not to condemn Uganda's 'Kill the Gays' bill"? We found no evidence that Chick-fil-A itself spent money (let alone millions) lobbying Congress to prevent that body from issuing a condemnation of a controversial Ugandan [legislative bill <http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57372796/uganda-anti-gay-death-penalty-bill-reintroduced/>](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57372796/uganda-anti-gay-death-penalty-bill-reintroduced/) which carried the death penalty for some homosexual acts. Some sources reported that the Family Research Council (FRC), one of the organizations to which Chick-fil-A donates through its WinShape corporate charity foundation, filed a [report <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/08/01/1115751/-What-really-makes-the-gays-mad-about-Chick-fil-A>](http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/08/01/1115751/-What-really-makes-the-gays-mad-about-Chick-fil-A) stating that it had spent \$25,000 lobbying Congress against [H.R. 1064 <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.RES.1064:>](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.RES.1064:>), a resolution seeking to "express the sense of the House of Representatives" that Uganda's proposed Anti-Homosexuality Bill "threatens the protection of fundamental human rights." However, the FRC said that although they did perform lobbying activities regarding H.R. 1064, they did not support the Uganda bill or the death penalty for homosexuality, and their lobbying efforts were not aimed at killing the Congressional resolution but rather at changing its language "to remove sweeping and inaccurate assertions that homosexual conduct is internationally recognized as a fundamental human right."

In September 2012, the Civil Rights Agenda group reported that Chick-fil-A had pledged not to fund groups that oppose gay marriage:

Chick-fil-A has pledged to stop giving money to anti-gay groups and to back off political and social debates after an executive's comments landed the fast-food chain smack in the middle of the gay marriage debate. The Civil Rights Agenda, which dubs itself the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy group in Illinois, said Chick-fil-A agreed in meetings to stop donating to groups such as Focus on the Family and the National Organization for Marriage. Such groups oppose same-sex marriage.

Chick-fil-A said that its nonprofit arm, the WinShape Foundation, "is now taking a much closer look at the organizations it considers helping, and in that process will remain true to its stated philosophy of not supporting organizations with political agendas[.]"

Shortly afterwards, Chick-fil-A issued an ambiguous statement about whether it had in fact made any such pledge:

For many months now, Chick-fil-A's corporate giving has been mischaracterized, and while our sincere intent has been to remain out of this political and social debate, events from Chicago have once again resulted in questions around our giving. For that reason, we want to provide some context and clarity around who we are, what we believe and our priorities in relation to corporate giving. A part of our corporate commitment is to be responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Because of this commitment, Chick-fil-A's giving heritage is focused on programs that educate youth, strengthen families and enrich marriages, and support communities. We will continue to focus our giving in those areas. Our intent is not to support political or social agendas.

As we have stated, the Chick-fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender. We will continue this tradition in the over 1,600 restaurants run by independent Owner/Operators.

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Updated: 6 July 2018

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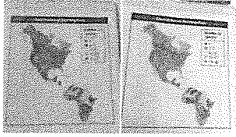
Was a 'My Little Pony' Animator Arrested for Possession of Child Pornography Part of '#PedoGate'?

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14 August 2018 - An animator for the children's cartoon has been sentenced to prison for possessing child pornography, but the case is not part of a "#PedoGate" conspiracy.

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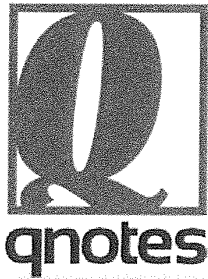
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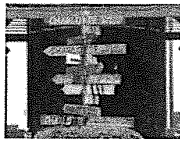
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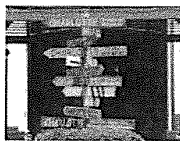
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Matt Comer
Staff Writer

New Chick-fil-A filings show decrease in anti-LGBT funding

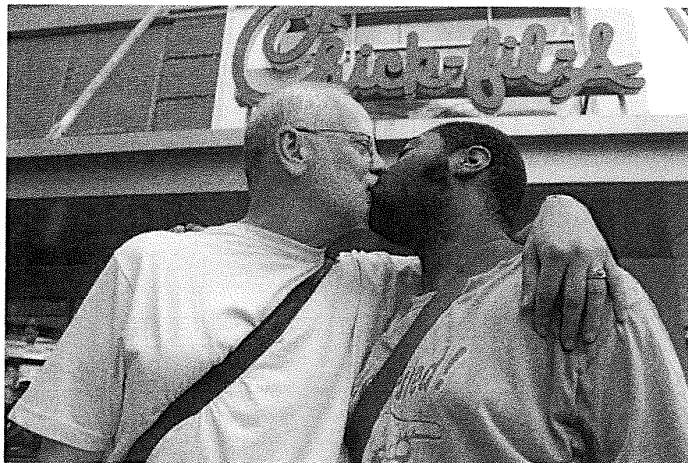
Only one questionable group, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, remains as grant recipient

Published: March 3, 2014 in News

Updated: November 14, 2017 at 2:03 pm

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Pictured Above: A couple kisses during the "National Same-Sex Kiss-In Day" on Aug. 3, 2012, at a Silver Spring, Md., Chick-fil-A. Photo Credit: Elvert Barnes, via Flickr. Licensed CC.



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A couple kisses during the "National Same-Sex Kiss-In Day" on Aug. 3, 2012, at a Silver Spring, Md., Chick-fil-A. Photo Credit: Elvert Barnes, via Flickr. Licensed CC.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — New filings with the IRS show Chick-fil-A has dramatically decreased its non-profit funding for anti-LGBT groups and causes, more than a year after a Charlotte-based LGBT advocate ended his organization's boycott against the group.

Federal tax filings for 2012 for Chick-fil-A's primary corporate foundation, the WinShape Foundation, show the group has shifted its focus to its own programs — marriage retreats, camps and other services, as well as a scholarship fund at Berry College in Georgia and Lars WinShape, a home for needy children in Brazil.

Separate filings for a newly-established foundation, the Chick-fil-A Foundation, show the group has ceased all funding to some of the more controversial and extremist groups it has funded in the past. From 2010-2011, Chick-fil-A came under fire for giving as much as \$3.6 million in support to groups like the Marriage & Family Foundation, the National Christian Foundation, Family Research Council and Exodus International — groups with specifically-stated anti-LGBT political and social agendas. The Family Research Council had also been named an anti-LGBT hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Those groups are no longer supported by the new Chick-fil-A Foundation or WinShape, holding true to a statement released by Chick-fil-A last January.

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"While we evaluate individual donations on an annual basis, our giving is focused on three key areas: youth and education, leadership and family enrichment and serving the local communities in which we operate," the company said at the time. "Our intent is to not support political or social agendas. This has been the case for more than 60 years. The Chick-fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect and to serve great food with genuine hospitality."

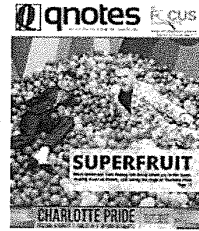
The new foundation shows grants to groups like Habitat for Humanity, the United Negro Scholarship Fund and two groups that work with homeless and at-risk youth in Atlanta. Only one arguably anti-LGBT group remains, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which holds some anti-LGBT leadership policies and religious doctrines. But, that group received just \$25,390 in 2012, down from nearly a half-million dollars in funds it received in 2010.

Charlotte-based advocate Shane Windmeyer, of the national group Campus Pride, had once sought to boycott Chick-fil-A, later backing off in September 2012 after developing a personal relationship with company COO Dan Cathy — a relationship he wrote about for *Huffington Post* last year.

Windmeyer was also the one who announced last year that Chick-fil-A would be shifting its focus. He now says the new financial documents prove his personal dialogue with Cathy helped to move the conversation forward.

"I still wouldn't call Chick-fil-A a gay-friendly company, but I would say that our dialogues and conversation that Campus Pride has had has been a positive one. There is some, albeit small, progress there," Windmeyer tells *qnotes*.

news and features on progressive topics and a stronger focus on the arts along with our regular ones tailored for the LGBTQ community. We've got a host of informative features for our InFocus Charlotte



issue that include ones on history, entertainment and activity options, resources and annual events. We also have preview coverage on the upcoming Charlotte Pride Festival & Parade, in addition to current local and regional news, along with other pieces that will serve to enlighten our readers on a variety of topics.

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[Ed. Note — This writer worked briefly as a communications manager for Campus Pride in the spring of 2012.]

Windmeyer had come under fire from some activists and bloggers for his relationship with Cathy, with some commentators asking tough questions of the leader and asking for proof of Chick-fil-A's change of heart.

Windmeyer has defended his conversations with Cathy, calling them "a lesson to learn for the future of our movement."

"It's not always about winning or losing," Windmeyer said. "It's about having tough conversations we need to have with people who disagree with us but doing so in a way that creates understanding and creates care for each other."

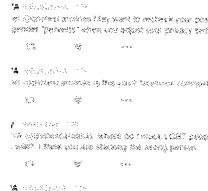
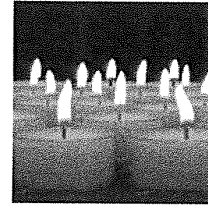
He added, "It's my purpose to role model that you can come together and talk to someone with opposite views and you don't have to have opposing voices. You can sit down and have conversations. One can decide to boycott, but as long as that person is willing to do work heading toward common ground, then I don't want to shut off the dialogue."

Common ground is exactly what Windmeyer says Chick-fil-A's Cathy wants. And, indeed, the company's Hollywood store was a sponsor just in the past two weeks of Level Ground, a Los Angeles festival that ran Feb. 20-March 2 that "uses art to create safe space for dialogue about faith, gender, and sexuality."

Though Windmeyer believes Cathy and Chick-fil-A are making progress, there remains much more work to do. The company, for example, does not offer non-discrimination protections for LGBT employees and it does not offer benefits for LGBT employees' partners. Additionally, some critics will have continued concerns over Cathy's personal religious views or the Chick-fil-A Foundation's continued funding of groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Even so, Windmeyer intends to continue his dialogue.

"We sometimes forget that we may achieve equality when it comes to marriage in the near future," he says, "but ultimately there will still be people who disagree with us. How can we have conversations and engage those individuals?"



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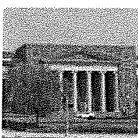
Charlotte gay rights group playing big role in Chick-fil-A controversy



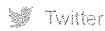
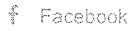
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PHOTOS: Concord Mills Chick-fil-A attracts competing protesters



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About the author: *Matt Comer is a staff writer for QNotes. He previously served as editor from October 2007 through August 2015.*

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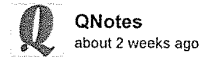
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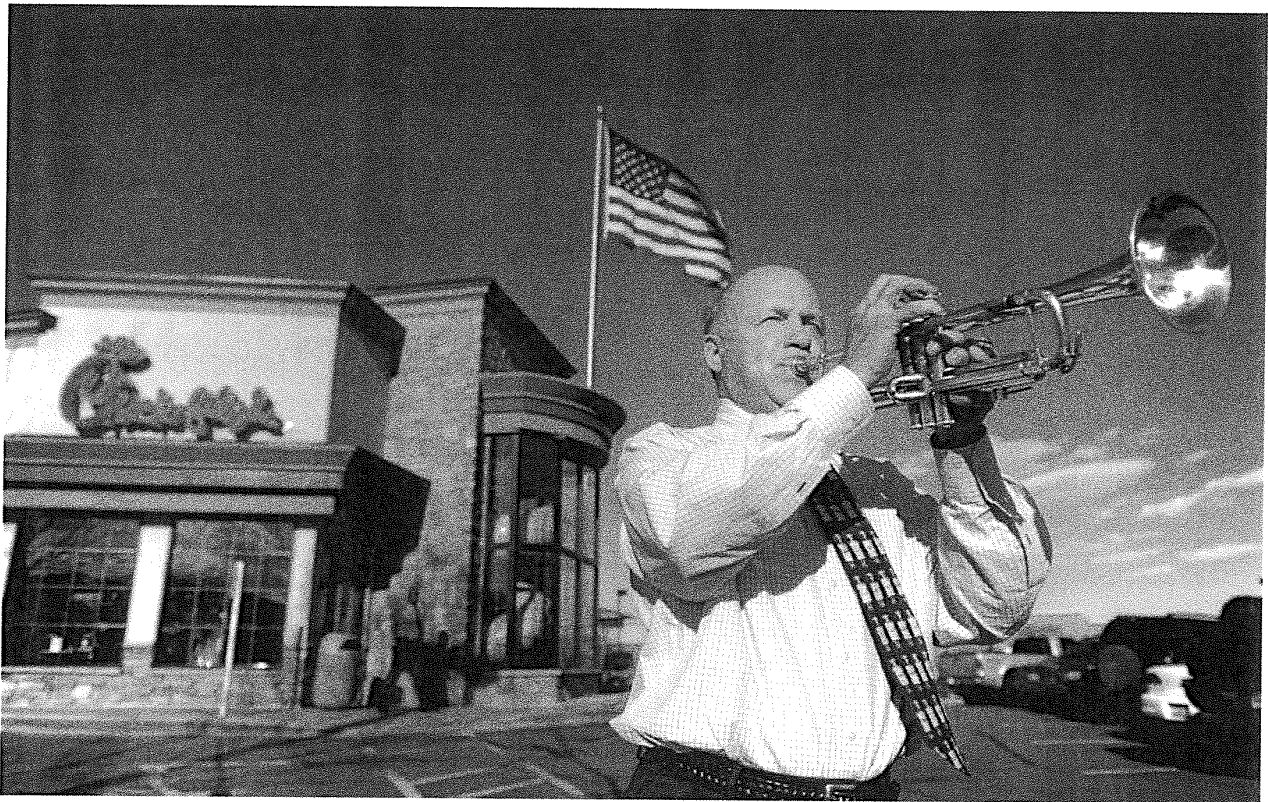
This amazing theme was handcrafted by Bebel

Non-profit decides that Chick-fil-A's CEO should give keynote speech at 'equality' conference

Dan Cathy's company continues to be one of the most anti-LGBTQ businesses in America.

JOSH ISRAEL 

AUG 2, 2018, 8:00 AM



THE THEME OF NEXT MONTH'S ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CONFERENCE IS "INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." THE EVENT'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HEAD OF ONE OF AMERICA'S LEAST INCLUSIVE COMPANIES: CHICK-FIL-A CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, AND CEO DAN CATHY. (PHOTO CREDIT: CYRUS MCCRIMMON/THE DENVER POST VIA GETTY IMAGES)

The theme of next month's annual International Economic Development Council (IEDC) conference — which approximately 1,500 people are expected to attend — will be "inclusive economic development." But a keynote speaker at the Atlanta

gathering is none other than the head of one of America's least inclusive companies: Chick-fil-A chairman, president, and CEO Dan Cathy.

Though it has funded and backed anti-LGBTQ causes for years, it was not until 2012 that Chick-fil-A became nationally known for its exclusionary views. That year, Cathy confirmed the restaurant chain's anti-gay political agenda, telling the Baptist Press that his company was "guilty as charged."

Following national backlash, Cathy claimed he and the company would stay out of the debate on LGBTQ rights and "treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their beliefs, race, creed, sexual orientation and gender." But five and a half years later, the company remains one of the largest national companies without a written non-discrimination policy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer employees, as well as a 0 score on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.

Additionally, a recent tax filing for the company's tax-exempt foundation revealed that it continues to fund anti-LGBTQ organizations like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Paul Anderson Youth Home, and the Salvation Army.



Rubio's 'personal view' defense of Chick-fil-A is bogus. Here are the receipts.

ThinkProgress reached out to the IEDC to ask why an organization whose own code of ethics demands "all economic development activities are conducted with equality of opportunity for all segments of the community" picked Cathy to headline its annual conference. In a phone interview, the organization's president,

Jeff Finkle, defended the decision, while acknowledging that the organization's leadership had disagreed on the matter.

"Is this my easiest thing to defend in my career? It is not," he said. "Am I willing to defend it? I am."

Finkle explained that Cathy's speech will focus on "the good work Chick-fil-A, their foundation, and the [Cathy] family has done in supporting the African American community on Atlanta's Westside [...], a case study on economic development in that area." He also noted that some of the other prominent speakers at the conference are openly gay.

Chick-fil-A's anti-LGBTQ record, Finkle added, "doesn't represent IEDC." He said that Cathy's selection initially came from the organization's partner, the Metro Atlanta Chamber. That group did not immediately respond to a ThinkProgress inquiry, but has presented itself as pro-diversity and against sexual orientation discrimination in the past.

Finkle said he believes Cathy and Chick-fil-A are improving on LGBTQ issues. "I think if you look at where their donations were in 2010, 2011, and 2012 — and where they are in 2018 and in the future — I think you'll see a company that is changing."

He added, "If you don't allow them to move, [South Carolina Sen.] Strom Thurmond would have stayed anti-Black, Sen. [Robert] Byrd in West Virginia would have been the same way. They became leaders of civil rights legislation."

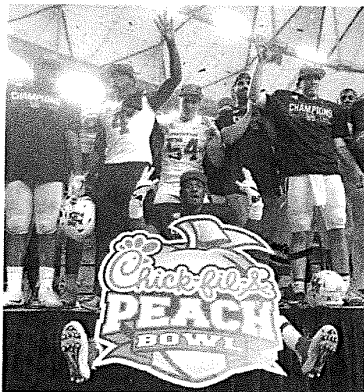
Asked about the fact that the Chick-fil-A Foundation actually gave a very similar amount (about \$1.8 million) to anti-LGBTQ causes in its most recent tax filing to its

2010 totals, Finkle said he was aware of the donations and had been assured the company would limit them moving forward.

"They told us that," he said. "They said, after this year, there's only gonna be one group left that some people in the LGBTQ community will object to — that's the Salvation Army. They told us from now forward they are ceasing all the other contributions that have been deemed offensive."

The Chick-fil-A Foundation did not immediately respond to a ThinkProgress inquiry about that claim. However, it would not be the first time the company has tried to give the impression that it has evolved.

Others are less sure of the progress Chick-fil-A claims to have made. Jeff Graham, executive director of Georgia Equality, told ThinkProgress that by refusing to adopt an LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination policy, Chick-fil-A has fallen out of the corporate mainstream in the state.



Chick-fil-A is still bankrolling anti-LGBTQ causes

As of 2014, he said, "500 of the largest employers in the state of Georgia offered these protections." And more recently, hundreds of businesses signed a pledge to welcome all people, regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Chick-fil-A, he noted, was not on either list.

"We would hope that all companies would adopt the same policies...the vast majority of their peers in the corporate world offer," he said. "We'd love to see Chick-fil-A offer those protections. It's good for business, which is why it is a standard business practice."

Moreover, he added, as a "family-owned business that talks a lot about their religious values," Chick-fil-A adopting an inclusive policy would be an especially important statement, one that says "protecting people from discrimination does not violate someone's faith."

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Rubio's 'personal view' defense of Chick-fil-A is bogus. Here are the receipts.

It's not just the owner's 'personal view.' It's the nearly \$1.8 million in foundation donations.

JOSH ISRAEL 

JUN 19, 2018, 11:47 AM



A CHICK-FIL-A RESTAURANT IN DEDHAM, MA. CREDIT: DAVID L. RYAN/THE BOSTON GLOBE VIA GETTY IMAGES.

Earlier this month, Twitter's CEO came under fire for giving free advertising on his feed to Chick-fil-A — apologizing a day later for talking up one of America's most notoriously anti-LGBTQ companies and saying he "forgot about their background."

8/16/2018

Rubio's 'personal view' defense of Chick-fil-A is bogus. Here are the receipts. – ThinkProgress



Soledad O'Brien @soledadobrien · Jun 10, 2018

This is an interesting company to boost during Pride month, @jack
twitter.com/jack/status/10...



jack
@jack

You're right. Completely forgot about their background

2:09 PM - Jun 10, 2018

522 1,786 people are talking about this

Fox News screamed that this “sparked another round of backlash, this time from more conservative social media users, who questioned what the CEO of Twitter meant by ‘their background.’” And Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), who in 2016 cited the terror attack at a gay Orlando nightclub as his reason to run for Senate again after vowing not to do so but has consistently opposed LGBTQ rights, went ballistic.

“This lunacy has gone too far,” he wrote, claiming that Twitter’s Jack Dorsey had been “bullied” into apologizing for “patronizing” a company whose owners hold a “personal view taught by mainstream Christianity.”



Marco Rubio
@marcorubio

This lunacy has gone too far. The CEO of @Twitter bullied into apology for patronizing @ChickfilA because owners support “biblical definition of marriage”. Holding a personal view taught by mainstream Christianity is now boycott worthy.

cbsnews.com/news/jack-dors... via @cbsmoneywatch

9:21 AM - Jun 11, 2018

Jack Dorsey, Twitter's CEO, blasted for patronizing Chick-fil-A

Jack Dorsey's apology that he "forgot" about fast-food chain's opposition to gay marriage sparks tweetstorm on both sides
cbsnews.com

8,974 9,406 people are talking about this



Marco Rubio
@marcorubio

.@ChickfilA isn't denying service to anyone. But if you eat there you must be attacked by the twitter mob b/c owner agrees with what his church teaches about marriage? Why would twitter mob stop at biz owned by Christians? Who is next? Christian schools? Christian charities?

9:28 AM - Jun 11, 2018

5,702 2,619 people are talking about this



Marco Rubio
@marcorubio

The message from latest @ChickfilA incident is this: "Your church can still teach traditional marriage (which by the way we will still label as a bigoted belief) but don't you dare repeat it outside of church or we will come after you, your business and/or your job."

9:36 AM - Jun 11, 2018

1,774 1,557 people are talking about this

marcorubio US SENATE

Friend,

This time, the PC police have gone too far.

A few days ago, the CEO of Twitter was bullied into apologizing for patronizing Chick-fil-A because owners support "biblical definition of marriage."


Apparently, holding a personal view taught by mainstream Christianity is now boycott-worthy, but I am **standing by Chick-fil-A**.

If you think the politically correct lunacy has gone too far, show your support for Chick-fil-A by adding your name.



David Wright
@DavidWright_CNN



urgent breaking news: marco rubio is STANDING BY
CHICK-FIL-A 

10:56 AM - Jun 13, 2018

245 126 people are talking about this

But while Rubio's tweetstorm claims that the ongoing criticism and boycott by the "twitter mob" of a company "owned by Christians" is purely about the owner's "personal view," recently released tax documents demonstrate that the company's actions continue to be pro-discrimination.

As first noted by blogger Tim Peacock, Chick-fil-A's tax-exempt foundation filed its annual IRS Form 990 a few months ago and it shows that company continues to support rabidly anti-LGBTQ organizations.

The form, which covers the year 2016, reveals that the Chick-fil-A Foundation — almost all of which is funded directly from corporate money — gave about \$1.8 million to three non-profits known for discriminatory activities: the Fellowship of

Christian Athletes, Paul Anderson Youth Home, and Salvation Army. This is actually a significant increase compared to its 2015 totals to the same groups.

More than \$1,500,000 of that went to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and its local affiliates. The group seeks to use athletes and coaches to spread Christian teachings and impart an anti-LGBTQ message. All those who work for the organization must adhere to a strict "sexual purity" policy, barring any "homosexual acts," even for married couples. The group's Campus Playbook teaches young leaders that "God's design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman to complement and complete each other. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society."

More than \$130,000 went to the Paul Anderson Youth Home, a Georgia-based "Christian residential home for troubled youth." They teach boys the dangerous myth that "sexual, physical, and mental abuse of children, mostly in the alleged 'safety' of their own homes has produced all kinds of evil throughout the culture to include the explosion of homosexuality in the last century," that "homosexual behavior and lifestyle" are lawlessness, and that same-sex marriage is "rage against Jesus Christ and His values."

More than \$146,000 went to the Salvation Army. The religious organization has a lengthy record of opposition to same-sex marriage equality, anti-LGBTQ housing discrimination, and promoting exemptions from non-discrimination ordinances. Three years after the U.S. Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land, the ministry boasts on its website's "The Salvation Army and the LGBT Community," page that it adheres "to all relevant employment laws, providing domestic partner benefits accordingly." In other words, they have no non-

discrimination protections of their own and unless you are in one of the minority of states explicitly bar anti-LGBTQ discrimination, you might be out of luck.

Five years ago, Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy vowed to stay out of the debate on LGBTQ rights and to “treat every person with honor, dignity and respect—regardless of their beliefs, race, creed, sexual orientation and gender.” Yet the company has still not adopted an LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination policy, still receives a 0 on the Human Rights Campaign’s corporate equality scorecard, and still gives generously to anti-LGBTQ causes.

While Rubio is trying to build his fundraising list by “standing by Chick-fil-A,” those who do not support discrimination might want to think twice before standing with him.

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T **Neo-Confederates officially begin their latest Russian outreach operations**

Weeks after its announcement, the League of the South's Russian platform goes live.

T **FBI investigating cyberattacks against Democratic rival of Rep. Dana**

It's the latest reported cyberattack targeting U.S. elections.



Twitter suspends Alex Jones for one week following threatening video

The far-right radio host and conspiracy theorist has been suspended from Twitter for one week.

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'You are not welcome here': Pro-LGBTQ-rights consumers vow to boycott Chick-fil-A after it announces it's opening in Toronto

Not everyone is happy that Chick-fil-A is opening in Toronto. Chick-fil-A

- Chick-fil-A is opening in Toronto, and many Canadians aren't too pleased about it.
- The fast-food chain has a long and contentious relationship with the LGBTQ community.
- Angry consumers are boycotting the company on social media, saying that it has "no place in Canada" and that it should "stay out."

Chick-fil-A didn't receive a very warm welcome when it announced plans this week to open in Toronto.

The fast-food chain has a long and contentious relationship with the LGBTQ community.

CEO Dan Cathy has been vocal in the past about not supporting same-sex marriage because it goes against the company's religious values. In 2012, he told the Baptist Press he was "guilty as charged" when it came to his stance on how a family should be constructed.

"We are very much supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit," he said.

It was later revealed that the chain, through its WinShape Foundation, had donated more than \$2 million to organizations that oppose same-sex marriage two years earlier.

Because of this, angry consumers are boycotting the company on social media, saying it has "no place in Canada" and that it should "stay out."

"I know your homophobic history and your bankrolling of political candidates who promote anti-LGBT discrimination," one person wrote on Twitter on Wednesday. "That bigotry has no place in Canada. I will be boycotting you and encouraging others to do the same."

Chick-fil-A "is proudly anti-LGBTQ soooo no thank you," another user tweeted on Friday morning. "I'll be spending my money elsewhere #boycottchickfila."

"We cannot wait to join the Toronto community - to become a part of the vibrant restaurant scene, contribute to the economic development of the city and to be an active member of a community known for its diversity. We are a brand that is represented by more than 120,000 people from various backgrounds and beliefs, and we open our doors to everyone," Rich Matherne, vice president, international at Chick-fil-A said in a statement emailed to Business Insider.

Chick-fil-A is planning to open at least 15 restaurants in the Toronto area over the next five years, with the first three locations opening next year, Chick-fil-A's president and chief operating officer, Tim Tassopoulos, told Business Insider's Hayley Peterson. The Toronto restaurants will be Chick-fil-A's first franchisee-owned units outside the US.



Sam Burkiss
@sampurkiss



Toronto has tons of great chicken places already, and none of them are run by homophobes. Support those places instead
#BoycottChickFilA

4:52 PM - Jul 26, 2018

♡ 32 💬 26 people are talking about this



—June (@juniemoon007) July 26, 2018



Chick-fil-A, Inc. @ChickfilA · Jul 25, 2018



Replying to @wayleu

It's true! Our first restaurant is scheduled to open in Toronto in the first half of 2019. We won't stop there though...we aim to open 10 to 20 restaurants in Toronto over the next five years!



Otus Pare
@OtusPare

#boycottchickfila I will not support a company that is so openly homophobic. Never eating here!

1:35 PM - Jul 26, 2018

♡ 16 💬 20 people are talking about this





Chris Lotts

@chrislotts1



Just a friendly Canadian reminder that we are a progressive country and have morals and fight for equal rights for all. We don't want your bigoted and discriminatory business opening anywhere north of the border. #BoycottChickFilA

9:30 AM - Jul 26, 2018

♡ 107 💬 769 people are talking about this



Chick-fil-A has tried to repair its image after its CEO's comments.

In an interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2014, Cathy said (per Time): "Every leader goes through different phases of maturity, growth, and development and it helps by [recognizing] the mistakes that you make. And you learn from those mistakes. If not, you're just a fool. I'm thankful that I lived through it and I learned a lot from it."

According to Time, he told the paper that he recognized that consumers "want to do business with brands that they can interface with, that they can relate with" and that the company did not discriminate against employees or customers based on their sexual orientation.

However, its image hasn't been forgotten.

In June, the CEO of Twitter and Square, Jack Dorsey, received backlash online after he posted a photo showing he had eaten at Chick-fil-A during Pride Month.

"You must love the taste of bigotry!" one person wrote on Twitter.

Dorsey later apologized.

SEE ALSO: Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey forced to apologize for eating Chick-fil-A during Pride Month

More: Retail Chick-fil-A LGBTQ LGBTQ Rights

<https://www.businessinsider.com/chick-fil-a-opening-in-canada-sparks-boycott-threats-2018-7>

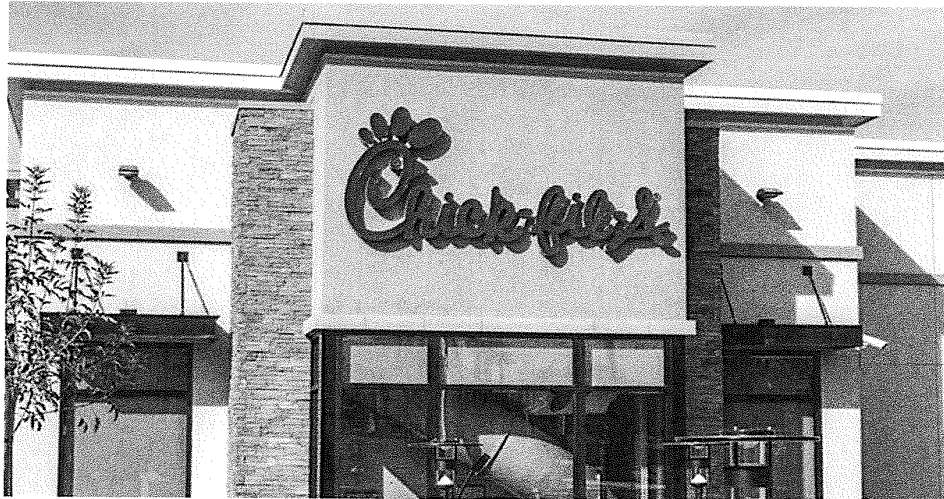
Best Toronto tequila bars



News

Canadians Are Petitioning To Ban Chick-Fil-A From Expanding Into Canada, Here's Why

Canadians have started a petition to keep Chick-Fil-A out of Canada following the restaurant's same-sex marriage controversy.



Lilly Paltsev · 3 weeks ago

@Jonathan Weiss

5.6K shares

5.6K shares

Chick-Fil-A, America's beloved fast food chicken joint, announced that they'll soon be opening their second Canadian location in Toronto. Chick-Fil-A opened their first Canadian restaurant in 2014, at Calgary's International Airport. Four years later, Canada's preparing to welcome the fast food chain to Ontario.

But, a large group of Canadians are far from thrilled at the news. Chick-Fil-A has been at the centre of same-sex marriage controversy for years. The restaurant allegedly supports anti-gay organizations, and has donated millions of dollars to them. The company's CEO, Dan T. Cathy, has spoken publicly about his negative views on same-sex marriage.

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Via Mkopka

Chick-Fil-A has since publicly apologized and changed their policies since the controversy, which began in 2012. But, many Canadians refuse to forgive and forget.

A petition called "Chick-Fil-A: Stay Out Of Canada" has over 46,000 signatures. The petition was started back in 2014 when the Calgary restaurant first opened. They only need 3,600 more signatures to reach their goal.

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Via Luckydoor

"Would you like your fried chicken with a side of homophobia?" the petition reads, "That's what's on offer at the Calgary International Airport, where notoriously anti-gay restaurant Chick-fil-A has just opened its first Canadian branch."

"The fast-food giant is one of the largest privately-held restaurant chains in the US, but its public image took a nose-dive in 2012 with revelations about its anti-gay stance. Since then, some new US branches have been prevented from opening," says the petition, "Chick-fil-A is clearly worried about a backlash. So let's give it one!"

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 @chickfila

uploaded via

It isn't clear whether or not the petition has any power over Chick-Fil-A's expansion into Canada. But, by spreading awareness, Canadians can choose not to support the restaurant and its history of endorsing discrimination.

SHARE ON FACEBOOK

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Here's What The Cast Of Degrassi: The Next Generation Looks Like In 2018



35 Things To Do In Houston When You're Bored And All Your Friends Are Busy



You Can Walk Through A Village Made Up Of 7,000 Glowing Pumpkins In Ontario Next Month



29 Spontaneous Day Trips That Are Less Than 3-Hours Away From Minneapolis



Warning: There's A Massive Snake On The Loose In Ottawa



Forget Dinner And A Movie: Ruin Your Relationship Over Mario Kart At This Toronto Bar Instead



A B.C. Woman Completely Trashed A McDonald's And Attacked Staff Over A Missing Tomato (VIDEO)



30 Spontaneous Day Trips That Are Less Than 3 Hours Away From Seattle



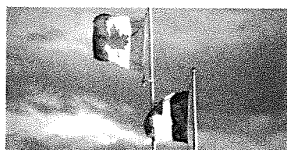
37 Houston Spots To Take Really Cool Instagram Photos



20 Photos Of The Massive Nordik Luxury Resort Spa Opening In Whitby



Justin Bieber Brought Hailey Baldwin To His Hometown In Ontario For The Most Canadian Trip Ever



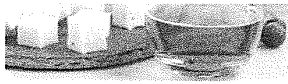
Some Canadians Are Buying Dirt Cheap Phone Plans From France To Save Money, Here's How That Works



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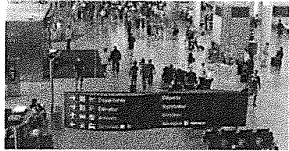
Canada Is In For An Exceptionally Warm Winter This Year Due To El Niño Event



Canadians Are Obsessed With This New Blue Wine And Here's Where You Can Get It



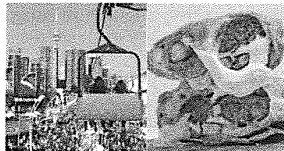
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Pearson Airport's Busiest Day Of The Year Is Happening Next Week, Here's When It Is And How You Can Prepare



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Here Are All The Crazy Foods You Need To Try At This Year's CNE 2018



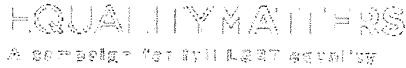
Lilly Paltsev

Favourite film - Threat Level Midnight. Favourite band - Kevin and the Zits.
Favourite show - if you know, you know.

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FACT CHECK

EMAIL PRINT

Chick-Fil-A Donated Nearly \$2 Million To Anti-Gay Groups In 2010

July 02, 2012 9:26 am ET

In early 2011, Chick-fil-A came under fire for its donations and political ties to a number of anti-gay groups. Though Chick-fil-A continues to deny supporting an anti-gay agenda, the company has donated over \$3 million to organizations like the Family Research Council and Exodus International between 2003 and 2009. And in 2010 alone, Chick-fil-A donated over \$1.9 million to anti-gay causes, more than any other year for which public records are available.

Chick-Fil-A's Charitable Arm Gave Nearly \$2 Million To Anti-Gay Groups In 2010

WinShape Is Chick-Fil-A's Charitable Arm. The WinShape Foundation is Chick-fil-A's charitable arm, created by Chick-fil-A founder and chairman S. Truett Cathy in 1984. WinShape has received a substantial amount of funding from Chick-fil-A: in 2010 alone, WinShape received \$8,067,161 from Chick-fil-A Inc. [WinShape 2010, Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

WinShape Gave Over \$1.9 Million To Anti-Gay Groups. In 2010, WinShape donated \$1,974,380 to a number of anti-gay groups:

- Marriage & Family Foundation: \$1,188,380
- Fellowship Of Christian Athletes: \$480,000
- National Christian Foundation: \$247,500
- New Mexico Christian Foundation: \$54,000
- Exodus International: \$1,000
- Family Research Council: \$1,000
- Georgia Family Council: \$2,500

[Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

[Click here to learn more about WinShape's history of anti-gay donations](#)

MARRIAGE & FAMILY FOUNDATION (MFF)

Chick-Fil-A Vice President Launched Marriage And Family Legacy Fund. Donald "Bubba" Cathy, Chick-fil-A's senior vice president, helped launched the Marriage and Family Legacy Fund (MFLF), which "pool[s] funds for a national marriage media campaign and provide start-up grants for local initiatives to promote stable, lasting marriages." [Philanthropy Roundtable, October 2007]

MFLF Is A Project Of The Anti-Gay Marriage CoMission. The MFLF was created to be the "implementation and funding arm" for the Marriage CoMission, a coalition of groups formed in response to the "downward spiral of marriage and the traditional family in America." [MFLF Executive Summary, accessed 6/27/12, Marriage CoMission, accessed 6/27/12]

- **Marriage CoMission Is Supported By Prominent Anti-Gay Activists.** Since its inception, the CoMission has been supported by anti-gay activists such as Exodus International's Alan Chambers and Citizens for Community Values' Barry Sheets. [Marriage CoMission, accessed 10/28/11]

[Click here to learn more about the Marriage CoMission and its ties to anti-gay groups](#)

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Fox's Megyn Kelly: Accepting Transgender Children Causes "Confusion" For Other Students
NOVEMBER 10, 2015 12:09 PM ET



Fox's Shepard Smith On Kim Davis: "Haters Are Gonna Hate"
SEPTEMBER 08, 2015 5:42 PM ET



MSNBC's Thomas Roberts Highlights Violence Against Transgender Women Of Color
AUGUST 25, 2015 5:20 PM ET



Fox's Advice To Gay Couple Refused A Wedding Cake: "Just Get A Carvel Cake"
JULY 09, 2015 10:27 AM ET



Fox News Contributor Alveda King Compares Homosexuality To Drug Use, Gluttony
JUNE 10, 2015 10:45 AM ET



Univision Shines A Light On The Struggles Transgender Latinas Face
JUNE 03, 2015 5:34 PM ET

MFLF Officially Changed Its Name To The Marriage & Family Foundation. [Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia, 6/17/08]

WinShape Donated \$1,188,380 To Marriage & Family Foundation. WinShape donated \$1,188,380 to the Marriage & Family Foundation (MFF) in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA)

Fellowship Of Christian Athletes Conference Has "Freed" People From Homosexuality. Every year, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) holds a National College Conference that Danny Burns, the conference Program Director, described as one in which "God freed some people from homosexuality, sexual sins, addictions and even ushered newcomers into His Kingdom." Burns' comment has since been removed from FCA's website. [Equality Matters, 3/22/11, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, accessed 10/28/11]

FCA Website Highlights Coach Who Was "Delivered From Homosexuality." [Fellowship of Christian Athletes, accessed 10/28/11]

FCA Ministry Leader Application Condemns "Impure Lifestyle" of Gays. The application to become an FCA Ministry Leader requires applicants to agree with the FCA's Sexual Purity Statement, which condemns gays for engaging in an "impure lifestyle":

God desires His children to lead pure lives of holiness. The Bible is clear in teaching on sexual sin including sex outside of marriage and homosexual acts. Neither heterosexual sex outside of marriage nor any homosexual act constitute an alternate lifestyle acceptable to God.

While upholding God's standard of holiness, FCA strongly affirms God's love and redemptive power in the individual who chooses to follow Him. FCA's desire is to encourage individuals to trust in Jesus and turn away from any impure lifestyle. [FCA Application, accessed 10/28/11]

WinShape Donated \$480,000 To FCA. WinShape donated \$480,000 to FCA in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (NCF)

National Christian Foundation Donates To Anti-Gay Groups. The National Christian Foundation (NCF) is a grant-making foundation that has made "hundreds of grants" to anti-gay groups like Focus on the Family, Family Life, and the Family Research Council, according to the Philanthropy Roundtable's publication "Reviving Marriage In America: Strategies for Donors." NCF allows donors to direct their donations and has experienced a surge in interest among donors in funding marriage-related giving. [Philanthropy Roundtable, accessed 2/8/11]

WinShape Donated \$247,500 To NCF. WinShape donated \$247,500 to the National Christian Foundation in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

Winshape Donated \$54,000 To New Mexico Christian Foundation. WinShape also donated \$54,000 to the New Mexico branch of the NCF in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

EXODUS INTERNATIONAL

Exodus International Promotes "Ex-Gay" Therapy. Exodus International is a major promoter of "ex-gay" therapy, the practice of trying to change a person's sexual orientation from gay to straight. The organization refers to being LGBT as "perverse" and a form of "sexual brokenness." [Truth Wins Out, accessed 6/27/12]

WinShape Donated \$1,000 To Exodus International. WinShape donated \$1,000 to Exodus International in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

Family Research Council Is Designated As An Anti-Gay Hate Group By the SPLC. The Family Research Council has been labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) for its propagation of known falsehoods about the LGBT community. For example, president Tony Perkins has

8/16/2018

Chick-Fil-A Donated Nearly \$2 Million To Anti-Gay Groups In 2010 | Equality Matters

a long history of false and inflammatory attacks, such as claiming that pedophilia is a "homosexual problem." [Washington Times, 11/24/10; SPLC, accessed 6/27/12]

WinShape Donated \$1,000 To Family Research Council. WinShape donated \$1,000 to the Family Research Council in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

GEORGIA FAMILY COUNCIL

Georgia Family Council Argued For Prop 8. The Georgia Family Council's website contains posts arguing in favor of California's Proposition 8 and criticizing Apple for removing from its "App Store" an application that promotes the argument that marriage equality is a threat to children and traditional marriage. [Georgia Family Council, 1/21/11; Georgia Family Council, accessed 6/27/12]

President Is Vocal Critic Of Marriage Equality. Randy Hicks, president of the Georgia Family Council (GFC), is a vocal critic of marriage equality; he has argued gay marriage would harm children and undermine traditional marriages. [By Faith, October 2006]

WinShape Donated \$2,500 To Georgia Family Council. WinShape donated \$2,500 to the Georgia Family Policy Council in 2010. [Winshape 2010 Publicly Available IRS 990 Form via Foundation Center, accessed 6/27/12]

Click here for more on Chick-fil-A's ties to anti-gay causes and organizations

Chick-Fil-A President Has Denied Company Has An Anti-Gay Agenda

Chick-Fil-A's President Released A Statement Denying The Company Is "Anti-Gay." In response to the controversy, Chick-fil-A president and COO Dan Cathy released a statement denying that Chick-fil-A's history of donations to anti-gay groups proved the company was "anti-gay." Cathy argued that Chick-fil-A has "no agenda against anyone," and that the company would not "champion any political agendas" relating to marriages or families but would nonetheless "continue to offer resources to strengthen marriages and families." [PR Newswire, 1/29/11]

— C.M.

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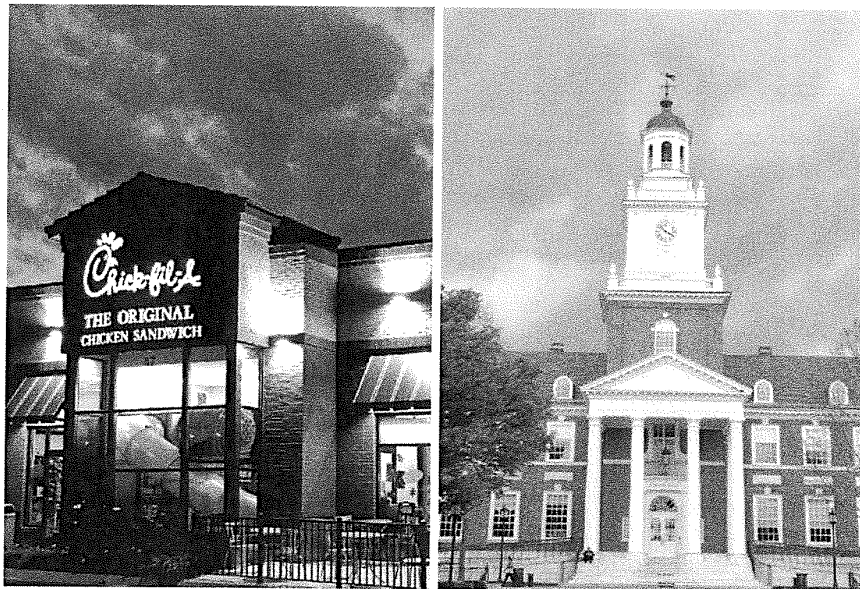
CHICK-FIL-A BALTIMORE SCANDALS

10

Chick-Fil-A Is Not Welcome at Johns Hopkins University

The student government "vehemently opposes" the chain's anti-gay marriage views.

by Whitney Filloon | @whitneyfilloon | Apr 23, 2015, 10:44am EDT



Mark Turnaukas/Flickr | callison-burch/Flickr

Johns Hopkins University is saying no thanks to Chick-fil-A. The student government feels the on-campus presence of the Atlanta-based chicken chain would be a "microaggression" against the LGBT community, reports The College Fix.

This week the Baltimore college's Student Government Association "approved a resolution that called on administrators to put to a halt any discussions or plans to bring a Chick-fil-A to campus" in light of the fast food chain's controversial anti-gay marriage stance. The move is strictly hypothetical — while there are no official plans for an on-campus Chick-fil-A at this point, The College Fix says "the vote was spurred by the recent start of construction on a large, mixed-use development at Johns Hopkins" that many students reportedly wanted to see the chain be a part of.

The resolution states that the SGA "vehemently opposes" anti-gay marriage sentiments expressed publicly by Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy, specifically citing a 2013 instance in which Cathy called the Supreme Court's landmark ruling supporting marriage equality a "sad day for our nation." The resolution also points out that "several universities and colleges such as North Carolina State University and Indiana University have already launched efforts to ban already established Chick-fil-A's."

Cathy touched off a major culture war when he publicly voiced his company's opposition to gay marriage back in the Summer of 2012. Following the subsequent media shitstorm, Chick-fil-A announced it would stop donating money to anti-gay organizations, though that didn't stop Cathy from publicly expressing his controversial opinions.

- VIA: Chick-Fil-A Rejected for Johns Hopkins Univ., Eatery Called 'Microaggression' [The College Fix] and All Chick-fil-A Coverage [E]

WIKIPEDIA

Chick-fil-A same-sex marriage controversy

The **Chick-fil-A same-sex marriage controversy** was focused around the American fast food restaurant Chick-fil-A following a series of public comments made in June 2012 by chief operating officer Dan T. Cathy opposing same-sex marriage.

This followed reports that Chick-fil-A's charitable endeavor, the S. Truett Cathy-operated WinShape Foundation, had donated millions of dollars to political organizations seen by LGBT activists as hostile to LGBT rights. Activists called for protests and boycotts, while supporters of the restaurant chain and opponents of same-sex marriage ate there in support of the restaurant. National political figures both for and against the actions spoke out and some business partners severed ties with the chain.

The outcome of the controversy was mixed, as Chick-fil-A's sales rose 12 percent, to \$4.6 billion, in the period immediately following the controversy. However, Chick-fil-A released a statement in July 2012 stating, "Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena."^[1] In March 2014, tax filings for 2012 showed the group stopped funding all but one organization which had been previously criticized.^[2]



"Chick-Fil-A Appreciation Day" held on August 1, 2012 in Port Charlotte, Florida.

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History

Group contributions from opponents of LGBT causes

In January 2011, the media reported that the American fast food restaurant chain Chick-fil-A was co-sponsoring a marriage conference along with the Pennsylvania Family Institute (PFI), an organization that had filed an amicus brief against striking down Proposition 8 in California (see Perry v. Brown).^{[3][4][5][6][7]} The PFI lobbied against a state effort to ban discrimination in Pennsylvania on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.^[8] Responding on its official company Facebook page, Chick-fil-A said that support of the PFI retreat had come from a local franchisee, stating "We have determined that one of our independent restaurant operators in Pennsylvania was asked to provide sandwiches to two Art of Marriage video seminars."^[9]

The WinShape Foundation, a charitable endeavor of Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy and his family, stated that it would not allow same-sex couples to participate in its marriage retreats.^[10] Chick-fil-A gave over \$8 million to the WinShape Foundation in 2010.^[11] Equality Matters, an LGBT watchdog group, published reports of donations by WinShape to organizations that the watchdog group considers anti-gay, including \$2 million in 2009, \$1.9 million in 2010 and a total of \$5 million since 2003, including grants to the Family Research Council and Georgia Family Council. WinShape contributed grants to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Exodus International, an organization noted for supporting ex-gay conversion therapy.^[12]

The Marriage and Family Foundation received \$994,199 in 2009^[13] and \$1,188,380 in 2010. The Family Research Council, an organization listed as an anti-gay hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center in Winter 2010,^{[14][15][16][17][18]} received \$1000.^{[19][20][21]}

Tax filings for 2012 showed that Chick-fil-A created a new foundation, the Chick-fil-A Foundation, to provide grants to outside groups. It funded only one previously funded group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Other filings for WinShape Foundation showed no funding for groups opposed to LGBT causes.^[2]



Protestors at a Memphis, Tennessee Chick-fil-A store on Same Sex Kiss Day

Statements by Dan Cathy

On June 16, 2012, while on the syndicated radio talk show, *The Ken Coleman Show*, Chick-fil-A president and chief operating officer (COO) Dan Cathy stated:

I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, "We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage". I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about.^{[22][23][24]}

The following month, on July 2, *Biblical Recorder* published an interview with Dan Cathy, who was asked about opposition to his company's "support of the traditional family." He replied: "Well, guilty as charged."^{[25][26]} Cathy continued:

"We are very much supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that. ... We want to do anything we possibly can to strengthen families. We are very much committed to that,"

Cathy emphasized. "We intend to stay the course," he said. "We know that it might not be popular with everyone, but thank the Lord, we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."^[25]

The day after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, Cathy tweeted, "Sad day for our nation; founding fathers would be ashamed of our gen. to abandon wisdom of the ages re: cornerstone of strong societies." The tweet was subsequently deleted, but was archived by Topsy.^{[27][28]}

In March 2014, Cathy said he regretted drawing his company into the controversy.^[29] He told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution he has been working with Shane Windmeyer of Campus Pride since 2012. The article noted that WinShape and the Chick-fil-A Foundation had "dramatically" cut donations to groups opposed by same-sex marriage supporters.^[30]

Policy changes

In September 2012, The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) announced that Chick-fil-A has "ceased donating to organizations that promote discrimination, specifically against LGBT civil rights". According to the TCRA, Chick-fil-A officials stated in an internal document that they "will treat every person equally, regardless of sexual orientation."^[31]

In a letter from Chick-fil-A's Senior Director of Real Estate, the company stated: "The WinShape Foundations is now taking a much closer look at the organizations it considers helping, and in that process will remain true to its stated philosophy of not supporting organizations with political agendas."^[32]

According to Chicago Alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno, Chick-fil-A has a statement of respect for all sexual orientations in an internal document called *Chick-fil-A: Who We Are* and has promised that its not-for-profit arm, WinShape, will not contribute money to groups that oppose gay marriage.^[33]

According to Focus on the Family website, CitizenLink.com: "Contrary to reports first made by the gay-activist group The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA) on Tuesday and later picked up by mainstream media outlets, Chick-fil-A and its charitable-giving arm, the WinShape Foundation, did not agree to stop making donations to groups that support the biblical definition of marriage in exchange for being allowed to open a franchise in Chicago."^[34]

Former Arkansas Governor and FOX News commentator Mike Huckabee claimed on September 21, 2012 that he had "talked earlier today personally with Dan Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A about the new reports that Chick-fil-A had capitulated to demands of the supporters of same sex marriage. This is not true. The company continues to focus on the fair treatment of all of its customers and employees, but to end confusion gave me this statement." The statement provided by Chick-fil-A was posted on Huckabee's website but the company did not respond to requests for comment.^[35] In March 2014, new tax filings from 2012 showed that the company had stopped funding all but one organization which had been previously criticized by LGBT activists and supporters but, that group received just \$25,390.^[36] The company created a new foundation, the Chick-fil-A Foundation, to fund outside groups. WinShape Foundation's 2012 tax filings showed funding only for its own programs, a Berry College scholarship fund, and Lars WinShape, a home for needy children in Brazil.^[2]

In 2017, Chick-fil-A is warning all its franchisees against speaking out publicly or getting involved in anything that could blur the line between their private beliefs and their public roles as extensions of the Chick-fil-A brand, the company has said.

Last year, that message extended to politics, in part to keep the brand from being exploited by candidates. The company turned down several candidates who tried to use Chick-fil-A to bolster their campaigns, according to David Farmer, Chick-fil-A's vice president of menu strategy and development.

"There are several candidates who would like to use us as a platform," Farmer told Business Insider last year. "We are not engaging. Chick-fil-A is about food, and that's it."

The company still encourages its franchisees to get "entrenched" in their communities. Operators' involvement in their communities is a critical part of what has helped Chick-fil-A attract a passionate following.

Traditionally, that has meant getting involved in local churches. But Chick-fil-A says its focus now — both for local and corporate involvement and philanthropy — is on youth and education causes.^[37]

Expansion to Toronto

Chick-Fil-A announced their expansion to Canada in the city of Toronto. This caused a number of boycotts and backlash from Canadians due to the huge support of LGBT in Canada, telling the company that they were not welcome in Canada with homophobia and transphobia. As of July 2018, Chick-Fil-A still plans to open in Toronto.

Controversy

Local government

After the publication of Cathy's interviews, Democrat Thomas Menino, the Mayor of Boston, stated that he would not allow the company to open franchises in the city "unless they open up their policies."^[38] Menino subsequently wrote a letter to Dan Cathy, citing Cathy's earlier statement on *The Ken Coleman Show*, and responded: "We are indeed full of pride for our support of same sex marriage and our work to expand freedom for all people."^[39]

In Chicago, Democratic alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno announced his determination to block Chick-fil-A's bid to build a second store in the city: "They'd have to do a complete 180", Moreno said in outlining conditions under which he would retract the block. "They'd have to work with LGBT groups in terms of hiring, and there would have to be a public apology from [Cathy]."^[40] Moreno received backing from Chicago's Mayor, Rahm Emanuel: "Chick-fil-A values are not Chicago values", Emanuel said in a statement. "They disrespect our fellow neighbors and residents. This would be a bad investment, since it would be empty."^[40]

San Francisco soon followed suit on July 26 when mayor Democrat Edwin M. Lee tweeted, "Very disappointed #ChickFilA doesn't share San Francisco's values & strong commitment to equality for everyone." Lee followed that tweet with "Closest #ChickFilA to San Francisco is 40 miles away & I strongly recommend that they not try to come any closer."^[41]

The proposed bans in Boston and Chicago drew criticism from some liberal pundits, legal experts, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Kevin Drum of *Mother Jones* magazine said "[T]here's really no excuse for Emanuel's and Menino's actions... you don't hand out business licenses based on whether you agree with the political views of the executives. Not in America, anyway ... what makes this whole situation so weird is that Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy has always opposed gay marriage. He's a devout Southern Baptist, just like his father, who founded the company. The place is closed on Sundays, for crying out loud. There's just nothing new here."^[42] UCLA law professor and blogger Eugene Volokh observed, "[D]enying a private business permits because of such speech by its owner is a blatant First Amendment violation."^[43]

Echoing those views were Glenn Greenwald of *Salon*, professor John Turley of George Washington University, Adam Schwartz, a senior attorney with the ACLU, and Michael C. Dorf, the Robert S. Stevens Professor of Law at Cornell University Law School.^{[44][45]}

Backlash

Students at several colleges and universities launched efforts to ban or remove the company's restaurants from their campuses. On November 3, 2011, New York University's Student Senators Council voted 19 to 4 to retain the Chick-fil-A franchise on campus. This vote came before a petition with over 11,000 signatures opposing its presence on campus was sent to the student council.^[46] Christine Quinn, a lesbian politician and then-Speaker of the City Council who was seeking the nomination as Democratic candidate for the mayoralty in the next election, was outspoken in her opposition to keeping the Chick-fil-A franchise or allowing others, and wrote a letter to this effect to NYU President John Sexton on official letterhead, opening with the words, "I write as the Speaker of the NYC Council", urging NYU to evict a Chick-fil-A due to Cathy's opposition to same-sex marriage.^{[47][48]}

On February 28, 2012, Northeastern University's Student Senate passed a resolution to cancel plans for a Chick-fil-A franchise on its campus, stating "the student body does not support bringing CFA [Chick-fil-A] to campus", and "Student concerns reflected CFA's history of donating to anti-gay organizations." The vote was 31 to 5, with 8 abstaining. The restaurant chain was finalizing a contract to bring it to NU when students protested.^[49] Davidson College in North Carolina announced on August 13, 2012 that, in response to a petition which received 500 signatures, the school would stop serving Chick-fil-A on campus at the monthly "After Midnight" events.^[50]

Other forms of protest occurred. Gay rights activists organized a "Kiss Off" to occur on August 3,^[51] an event where LGBT individuals would show affection in public,^[52] but it attracted smaller-than-hoped-for crowds.^[53]

On August 15, 2012, a gunman attempted to enter the Washington, D.C. headquarters of the Family Research Council, carrying 15 Chick-fil-A sandwiches, a 9 mm handgun, and a box of ammunition. He shot a security guard in the left arm, and following his arrest he told police that he wanted to use the sandwiches to "make a statement against the people who work in that building ... and with their stance against gay rights and Chick-fil-A",^[54] and that he planned "to kill as many people as I could ... then smear a Chicken-fil-A [sic] sandwich on their face".^[55]

Corporate partners

In response to the July 2 interview, the Jim Henson Company, which had entered its Pajanimals in a kids' meal toy licensing arrangement in 2011, said that it would cease its business relationship with Chick-fil-A, and donate payment for the brand to Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).^{[16][56][57]} Citing safety concerns, Chick-fil-A stopped distributing the toys.^[58] A spokeswoman stated the decision had been made on July 19 and was unrelated to the controversy.^[59]

In August 2012, petitions with over 80,000 signatures were delivered to publisher HarperCollins^[60] demanding the publisher cut plans to include Berenstain Bears titles as part of a kids' meal promotion. Upon being presented with petitions demanding that Berenstain Bears be pulled from a Chick-fil-A promotion, HarperCollins issued a statement saying "We have a long history of diversity and inclusiveness and work tirelessly to protect the freedom of expression. It is not our practice to cancel a contract with an author, or any other party, for exercising their first amendment rights."^[61]

Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day

In response to the controversy, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee initiated a Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day movement to counter a boycott of Chick-fil-A launched by same-sex marriage activists.^{[62][63][64]} More than 600,000 people RSVPed on Facebook for Huckabee's appreciation event.^[63]

On August 1, 2012, Chick-fil-A restaurants experienced a large show of public support across the nation with the company reporting record-breaking sales.^{[62][63][64]} A consulting firm projected that the average Chick-fil-A restaurant increased sales by 29.9 percent and had 367 more customers than a typical Wednesday.^[65]

Public polling

In August 2012, *Rasmussen Reports* published the results of a telephone survey indicating that 61 percent of likely voters held a favorable view of Chick-fil-A, while 13 percent indicated they would participate in a boycott.^[66]

Others

Other notable public figures came to Chick-fil-A's defense, including former Alaska Governor *Sarah Palin*,^[67] former US Senator *Rick Santorum*,^[68] and *Ann Coulter*,^[69] while New York Mayor *Michael Bloomberg*,^[70] and the *American Civil Liberties Union*^[71] publicly disagreed with Cathy's positions but defended his right to express them under the First Amendment.

Financial effect

Sales increased after the controversy. According to news coverage following the controversy:^[72]

Chick-fil-A's sales soared 12 percent, to \$4.6 billion, in 2012. The good fortune follows several years of impressive expansion and strong sales, which have pushed the privately held company's valuation north of \$4.5 billion, making billionaires out of its founders ... These latest sales data are just further proof that all that negative coverage didn't hurt demand for chicken sandwiches among Chick-fil-A's core consumers.

— Joe Satran, *The Huffington Post*

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