

Grand Rapids Pride Center
343 Atlas Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Dear Board of Directors and Staff of the Grand Rapids Pride Center,

We are writing to you today to demand that the Grand Rapids Pride Center stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement by committing to the requests of Black LGBTQ+ members of this community. We are a group that is committed to pushing the Grand Rapids Pride Center to be an agency that works for all of us, an agency that opposes violence towards the Black community by listening to those most impacted by police violence.

We are making the following demands:

1. The GRPC will commit to no cops participating in Pride ever again.
2. The GRPC will make a public statement saying explicitly BLACK LIVES MATTER.
3. The GRPC will add at least one Black person to the board of directors in the next 90 days.
4. The GRPC will contact all Pride 2020 sponsors and request that they make a donation of at least \$100 to The Okra Project or Trans Sistās of Color Project - Detroit.

We also call for the Grand Rapids Pride Center to support the defunding of the Grand Rapids Police Department to its charter mandated 32% of the City of Grand Rapids' budget.

We are a group that is committed to pushing the Grand Rapids Pride Center to be an agency that works for all of us. If the above listed demands cannot be committed to by June 30th, 2020 - the last day of Pride month, there will truly be no Pride until Black Lives Matter. We, and our allies will stop volunteering our time and serving in any capacity that benefits the Grand Rapids Pride Center. We, and our allies will not attend any future Pride Festival or fundraising event benefiting the Grand Rapids Pride Center. We, and our allies will not donate to or visit the Grand Rapids Pride Center.

We cannot celebrate our LGBTQ+ identities separately from our racial identities, there is no pride until Black Lives Matter. The intersections of blackness and queerness need to be understood and taken seriously by a space we are truly invested in, the Grand Rapids Pride Center.

We look forward to your response,

Samantha Przybylski
Nate Bentley
birdie duka-tutambe
Kyn (Chief) Ewing
Titus Hankins