

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Jay Tibshraeny  
Mayor of Chandler  
Chandler City Hall  
P.O. Box 4008  
Chandler, AZ 85244-4008  
Mayor&Council@chandleraz.gov

Dear Mayor Tibshraeny,

As we are sure you are aware, the City of Chandler, through its downtown development non-profit corporation, Downtown Chandler Community Partnership, (DCCP), is hosting “The Rock’n Taco Festival” on September 16, 2017 in downtown Chandler. The Arizona Chapters of Little People of America, (LPA), have taken issue with the City of Chandler issuing a permit for the event that includes “**Extreme Midget Wrestling**” due to the offensive nature of the “M” word. From reading the Chandler City code, it is clear that there are several layers of review necessary to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and that “Shall provide a safe environment and not endanger participants, spectators, or the general public.” Chandler City Code, Ch. 32-7(2).

While we are appreciative that the name of the wrestling event has been taken down from DCCP advertising and social media, we can cite too many examples of where it still does appear, thus creating a hostile and dangerous environment for Little People to attend. I am attaching several examples of hostile, bigoted and sexist comments referring to Little People as “midgets” (and quite frankly even less than human) that we have found related to this event. We also ask that you watch the Cronkite News broadcast air date of September 5, 2017. (Just this morning picked up by AZcentral.com, and we are sure that many more are to follow).

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2017/09/06/little-people-group-says-wrestling-event-chandler-hurts-discriminates/>

Several Little People have expressed to me that given the numerous hostile comments on multimedia, they fear for their safety and will not be attending the Rock'n Taco Festival. Please see the attached “Phoenix New Times Facebook Paid Ad” and the “AZ Family 3 TV & CBS 5 Facebook Poll re Midget Wrestling” comments sections.

We can document one instance where a month after a similar type of event a Little Person was grabbed and thrown resulting in serious injuries. We believe that your wrestling event will promote a similar atmosphere of hatred and bigotry (as it already has online) that will lead to some Little Person getting injured if they attend the event, and even perhaps afterward. We ask that you as Mayor, and the City Council, meet to consider terminating this “wrestling event” and have an online petition you can view at: <http://azlpa.org/petition-2017>.

Again, as we also mentioned to the DCCP, we are more than willing to offer sensitivity training on this matter to you, the City Council, and City staff so as to ensure this never happens again. (Unfortunately DCCP declined).

If you would like to talk further, I can be reached at 480-331-7247 or by email at emyers62@gmail.com.

**Edward L. Myers III Esq.**

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**Gaill Blackburn**

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LPA District 10 Director  
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AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY, & El Paso TX

**Attachments:** <http://azlpa.org/petition-2017/chandler-documentation>

Mayor of Chandler - Extreme Midget Wrestling.pdf (this email in pdf format)

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Mayor-of-Chandler-Extreme-Midget-Wrestling.pdf>

CronkiteNews 090517 - Little People group says wrestling event in Chandler hurts discriminates

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CronkiteNews-090517-Little-People-group-says-wrestling-event-in-Chandler-hurts-discriminates.pdf>

AZfamily3TVandCBS5-082817-Wrestling event in Chandler being called offensive

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AZfamily3TVandCBS5-082817-Wrestling-event-in-Chandler-being-called-offensive.pdf>

Kjzz 083117 - Group Discusses How Event Promotes Negative Stereotype Of Little People.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Kjzz-083117-Group-Discusses-How-Event-Promotes-Negative-Stereotype-Of-Little-People.pdf>

AZfamily3TVandCBS5-PollreMidgetWrestling as of 090117 at 945pm sorted by top comments posts unfiltered.pdf (patience - large 26 pg file can take a while to load depending on your computer)

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AZfamily3TVandCBS5-PollreMidgetWrestling-as-of-090117-at-945pm-sorted-by-top-comments-posts-unfiltered.pdf>

Phoenix New Times on Facebook as of 083117 at 530 pm sorted by top comments posts unfiltered.pdf (patience - large 14 pg file can take a while to load depending on your computer)

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Phoenix-New-Times-on-Facebook-as-of-083117-at-530-pm-sorted-by-top-comments-posts-unfiltered.pdf>

Ed Munson and azfamily 3TV CBS 5 - CONTROVERSIAL - Do You Think An Event Called Extreme Midget Wrestling Is Offensive.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Ed-Munson-and-azfamily-3TV-CBS-5-CONTROVERSIAL-Do-You-Think-An-Event-Called-Extreme-Midget-Wrestling-Is-Offensive.pdf>

LPA City Of Chandler Letter 082117 against Midget Wrestling - Final - without NewTimes posts.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/LPA-City-Of-Chandler-Letter-082117-against-Midget-Wrestling-Final-without-NewTimes-posts.pdf>

City Of Chandler Ordinance No 4672 Dated 120715 - Chapter 32-7-2 - on pg 8

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/City-Of-Chandler-Ordinance-No-4672-Dated-120715-Chapter-32-7-2-on-pg-8.pdf>

MATT ROLOFF FACEBOOK POST RE CHANDLER EXTREME MIDGET WRESTLING - 090117.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MATT-ROLOFF-FACEBOOK-POST-RE-CHANDLER-EXTREME-MIDGET-WRESTLING-090117.pdf>

MATT ROLOFF SLAMS AZs EXTREME MIDGET WRESTLING EVENT - 090117.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MATT-ROLOFF-SLAMs-AZs-EXTREME-MIDGET-WRESTLING-EVENT-090117.pdf>

Extreme WHAT Wrestling - Erin Parsons - He's Little Big - Blogger - 090517.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Extreme-WHAT-Wrestling-Erin-Parsons-Hes-Little-Big-Blogger-090517.pdf>

MIDGETS-ArizonaFoothillsMagazine.pdf

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MIDGETS-ArizonaFoothillsMagazine.pdf>

LPA issues statement to abolish the M-word

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/LPA-issues-statement-to-abolish-the-M-word.pdf>

Salon - Who you calling a midget - 071609

<http://azlpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Salon-Who-you-calling-a-midget-071609.pdf>