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**Rep. James White**  
District 19 – Woodville

The Honorable John Creuzot  
Dallas County District Attorney  
133 N. Riverfront Blvd., LB 19  
Dallas, TX 75207

***Delivered via Electronic Mail***

Re: Request to investigate event which occurred this past Saturday in Dallas County that exposed young children to obscene and harmful material

June 8, 2022

Mr. Creuzot:

On Saturday, June 4th, an event took place at Mr. Mister, a bar located at 3900 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas, at which we believe children were harmed in violation of the Texas Penal Code. That afternoon, the bar hosted an event called “Drag Your Kids to Pride,” where parents were encouraged to bring their children to the bar to encounter scantily-clad men dressed as women, with the specific goal of sexualizing the children at a young age. As it happens, several parents brought their children to the event, and just as advertised, the men, wearing only make-up and underwear, paraded around the establishment in front of the children present, at times even mimicking a strip-club environment, encouraging the children themselves to place dollar bills in between the male’s abdomen and his underwear strap.

Videos of the event have been widely circulated on social media over the past few days. Parents are outraged and Texans across the state are wondering how an event like this can be tolerated here, and whether they should expect more events like this in the future. We think not, and based on what we have read and seen, we believe it likely that some of the event organizations may have violated Sections 43.22–24 of the Texas Penal Code.

Under § 43.23(a), it is a state jail felony if a person “knowing its content and character, wholesale promotes or possesses with intent to wholesale promote any obscene material.” Similarly, under § 43.23(c) it is a Class A misdemeanor if a person “knowing its content and character, (1) promotes or possesses with intent to promote any obscene material . . . ; or (2) produces, presents, or directs an obscene performance or participates in a portion thereof that is obscene or that contributes to its obscenity.” It should be noted that under § 43.23(e) it is presumed that the person acted with knowledge of the content and character of the obscene material if the person does so in the course of his business. In this case, it is clear that the owners of the bar

knew exactly what they were inviting children in to see, and that they meant to promote it to children, fulfilling both elements of the crime.

Under a similar statute, § 43.24(b)(2), it is a Class A misdemeanor for a person to display harmful material to a minor if the person is reckless about whether a minor is present who would be offended or alarmed by the display. “Harmful material” is defined in the statute as “material whose dominant theme taken as a whole, (1) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor, in sex, nudity . . . (2) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole . . . and (3) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.” In this case, all three elements have been met. Simply glancing at one of the many images that have circulated of the event shows that the event appealed to the sexual, prurient interest of a minor, and the images as well show that the event was patently offensive in nature to prevailing standards in Dallas and Texas. Lastly, there is zero social value that minors can possibly receive from entering an establishment reserved for adults 21 years of age and older to watch grown men parade around in their underwear. Moreover, under § 43.24(d), it is a felony of the third degree if the person “uses a minor to do or accomplish or assist in doing or accomplishing”—a tactic used by many in the child grooming community—an act described by § 43.24(b)(2).

Additionally, Penal Code § 43.23 prohibits the promotion of obscene materials or devices. Based on photographic evidence, we conclude that reasonable minds could inquire as to whether any of these obscene devices or materials were promoted at this event. An investigation is warranted to answer these questions. Lastly, under § 43.22, it is a Class C Misdemeanor for a person to intentionally or knowingly display obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who would be offended or alarmed by the display.

As the District Attorney of Dallas County, you have the sole authority to prosecute this clear violation of the law. We thus respectfully ask that you investigate this occurrence immediately to determine which laws were broken and to prosecute accordingly. If any laws protecting children were broken, the people who coordinate these types of events that specifically target children should be criminally prosecuted, and other like-minded individuals in your county should be on notice that holding such an event in Dallas County is an illegal violation of the Texas Penal Code and could have serious criminal penalties.

We will be filing legislation next session to make it clear to everyone in Texas that these types of events that serve to sexualize children are unwanted, illegal, and will be met with the full force of the Texas law. Until then, we can only rely on local elected DAs like you to prosecute these grave offenses against our children.

Duty requires that you investigate this matter immediately. Please follow that duty for the sake of our children.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mayes Middleton, House District 23  
Rep. Matt Krause, House District 93  
Rep. Gary Gates, House District 28  
Rep. Matt Shaheen, House District 66  
Rep. Steve Toth, House District 15  
Rep. James White, House District 19  
Mark Dorazio, Republican Nominee for House District 122  
Carl Tepper, Republican Nominee for House District 84  
Terri Leo-Wilson, Republican Nominee for House District 23  
Carrie Isaac, Republican Nominee for House District 73

Rep. Matt Schaefer, House District 6  
Rep. Briscoe Cain, House District 128  
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Rep. Valoree Swanson, House District 150  
Rep. Cody Vasut, House District 25  
Former Representative Bill Zedler  
Richard Hayes, Republican Nominee for House District 57  
Nate Schatzline, Republican Nominee for House District 93  
Ellen Troxclair, Republican Nominee for House District 19

CC: Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas  
Commissioner Hasan K. Mack, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission