



## Anti-Gay Florida Mayor Hit with Protest

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07/26/2007

Jim Naugle, the mayor of Fort Lauderdale, has been piling on gay people for the last month, this week apologizing for "not alerting the public sooner to the serious problem of gay men having sex in public bathrooms" after he was picketed. Earlier, he had alleged that gay materials in the Stonewall Library housed in a city building contained "hard-core pornography."

On July 24, a diverse crowd estimated at 1,000 protested Naugle's anti-gay crusade, including his insistence on calling gay people "homosexual" because, he said, gay people "are unhappy." The demonstration was led by a local group called UNITE, dedicated to keeping the city "inclusive." Their battle cry is "Mayor Naugle doesn't speak for me."

The speakers included Broward County elected officials, a rep from the Anti-Defamation League, religious leaders, and **Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who said that Naugle's comments "are a stain on the entire city, and even worse, they incite violence and discrimination here and wherever they are heard." Foreman called on the City Commission to censure the mayor who he said "must be treated for the bigot he is and not welcomed at any event where good people gather."**