

## **Gays call for mayor's resignation in Fort Lauderdale** **Naugle sought special toilets to deter public gay sex**

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A crowd of protesters gathered in front of City Hall on Tuesday to demand the resignation of Mayor Jim Naugle, following remarks he made that activists describe as anti-gay.

During the "Surrender Naugle! Unity Rally," the group called for Naugle to step down, following his recommendation to install \$250,000 single-occupancy toilets on the beach that he said would deter gay sex in the public bathrooms there. The crowd also heard speeches from the city commissioners and activists.

Carrying signs declaring "Flush Naugle," the crowd shouted its approval of community members who addressed them.

The campaign was organized by the newly formed gay activist group UNITE Fort Lauderdale, which invited community leaders to speak out. The rally was the second one arranged by the non-profit. The first rally was on July 17.

This is just the latest gay-related controversy involving the six-term Fort Lauderdale mayor. He once voted against moving the Stonewall Library & Archives into a city building, claiming the library's collection contains "pornographic magazines of the worst kind."

Naugle's term as mayor of Fort Lauderdale expires in 2009.

The media and a smattering of activists gathered at City Hall Tuesday morning for what was billed as an apology from Naugle for his recent remarks. The mayor said he was sorry for "not being fully aware of the depth of the problem with sexual activity in parks and public places."

Naugle said he was referred to a gay web site that lists the best places to have public sex and was outraged. Many local parks were mentioned on the site, including Oakland Park's Easterlin Park and Fort Lauderdale's Holiday Park.

The mayor said that he is asking for "homosexuals" to work with him to get the web site removed from the Internet.

"Our parks are important for our children, and we will not accept this activity in the name of being inclusive or tolerant," he said.

Waymon Hudson, president of Fight OUT Loud, a local gay political group, said he was disgusted by the "apology" given by the mayor.

"Once again, the mayor stuck his foot in his mouth," he said.

Speakers at the rally included **Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force**; Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida; Howard Simon, Florida executive director of the ACLU; Andrew L. Rosenkranz, Florida regional director from the Anti-Defamation League; and Michael Emanuel Rajner, of National Secretary of Campaign to End AIDS.

City Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson said she doesn't support the mayor's sentiments.

"Mayor Jim Naugle does not speak for me," she said.

She was one of many who expressed anger at the mayor.

"I think the mayor has a constitutional right to reveal that he thinks like a jerk and we will respect his right to do so," said Howard L. Simon, the state ACLU leader and resident of Miami-Dade.