

Thank you to the Howell Community and those Livingston County residents for sharing your opinions with myself and the HAPRA Board both via email and in-person at the special board meeting held on, July 14<sup>th</sup>,2021.

After much consideration, a decision has been made to continue to offer the 21+ and older “Drag Bingo” event, which is sold out. To keep with times on the approved Melon Festival civic application and to address the concerns of the language presented in the show, we will be moving the event indoors to the Historic Howell Theatre, as a standalone event. The times and date of the event will not be changing. We understand that moving the event indoors, may cause other concerns regarding covid and we will honor a refund to any ticket holder who can no longer attend. The move indoors also addresses the community voices who do not want unnecessary exposures of the event to families in the public.

I understand that there are concerns regarding the use of taxpayer dollars to put on this event. This event is a ticketed event, like many of our special events and activities. The money generated from the ticket sales will be providing the revenue needed to cover the expenses of the entertainment, the rental cost of the venue and any other expenses that may occur. When all the expenses are finalized, we will take the remaining proceeds and donate in the names of those who purchased a ticket, to the Livingston County Diversity Council and Livingston County Pride Alliance.

Again, I want to thank our community for both expressing their concerns and for those who have shown their support. Allowing for respectful open discussion, of differencing opinion is what will make a community stronger.

Best Regards

Tim Church  
Executive Director  
Howell Area Parks and Recreation Authority