



**From:** Katherine Paquette kpaquette21@gmail.com    
**Subject:** Fwd: Citizen's comment re: 7/20/2022 Core commission and FS Bisbikos homophobic Facebook post  
**Date:** August 13, 2022 at 9:28 PM  
**To:** redminuy@icloud.com, Amy Domeika adomeika@comcast.net



Good evening Chair Pelletier and Vice-Chair Domeika,

I am forwarding my email below to your attention. If it is possible, please include it in documents at next CORE meeting

Thank you,  
Katherine Paquette

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Katherine Paquette <kpaquette21@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 13, 2022 at 11:57:45 AM EDT  
**To:** Amy Domeika <adomeika@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** Citizen's comment re: 7/20/2022 Core commission and FS Bisbikos homophobic Facebook post

Dear Core Commission members,

Hoping you are all doing well and have had some time to enjoy the beautiful summer weather. I am deeply concerned that Colchester's CORE commission appears to be struggling to fulfill its role in speaking up when moments of inequity rise in our community. Equity is different from equality. I encourage your commission to research the difference, so that you may come to a shared understanding. A simple YouTube search helped me find [https://www.google.com/search?q=equity+vs+equality&client=safari&hl=en-us&prmd=inv&source=lnms&tbn=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj79sSWgcT5AhUvGFkFHRXPAOIQ\\_AUoA3oECAIQAw&w=390&bih=664&dpr=3#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:8e0bb26f,vid:nCS7Rus4\\_-Y,st:0](https://www.google.com/search?q=equity+vs+equality&client=safari&hl=en-us&prmd=inv&source=lnms&tbn=vid&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj79sSWgcT5AhUvGFkFHRXPAOIQ_AUoA3oECAIQAw&w=390&bih=664&dpr=3#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:8e0bb26f,vid:nCS7Rus4_-Y,st:0)

I take issue with a member of your board saying that our First Selectman Bisbikos' 6/27/2022 posts have been "blow out of proportion." Please understand that it was not "just one image, in one book." This kind of statement shifts responsibility of this Town- initiated fiasco to the author of the RuPaul book, which is quite concerning considering that this Commission was initiated to help speak up on behalf of marginalized persons- and this book was on display for PRIDE month.

Please understand that it was First Selectman Bisbikos' RESPONSE to the alleged complaint, in which he identifies a sketched image of advertisement -seen the world over - to be "a serious concern." Please review his attached 6/27/2022 post.

When I initially read his post, I thought that someone had sketched deeply concerning hate speech within its pages, a his message implied a strong sense of urgency in the removal of something horrifying.

As more information regarding Bisbikos' concerns became known, it became apparent that he was expressing HIS or disdain for LGBTQ literary content in his post, as he indicated his removal of this LGBTQ book from circulation and to initiative to order an audit of all books for other "concerning images." Bisbikos also rationalized his actions during an July 10, 2022 BOS, to "protect our children."

Circling back to equity and CORE, I sincerely feel like First Selectman Bisbikos used his platform to marginalize persons in the LGBTQ community and embolden non-tolerance in our community. He is in a position of power and used his power to frame a sketched ad image in a children's LGBTQ biography as something of "serious concern." It is your role to remind everyone in the LGBTQ community that you do not share in the values of First Selectman Bisbikos and that there is absolutely nothing wrong with their sexual orientation. Put yourselves for a moment in their vantage point, how would you feel if you were in the LGBTQ community and read that post?

I would also like the CORE commission to advocate that Bisbikos participate in Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training to help expand his understanding of challenges faced by many and help reduce his likelihood of spewing more hate speech - and actions - in the future.

Thank you,  
Katherine Paquette  
41 mill lane west  
Colchester, CT  
06415





## Town of Colchester Colchester

Jun 27 · 🌐

Colchester Citizens,

A parent brought forward a serious concern regarding a book found in the children's section of the library. The book contains sexually provocative drawings in which the parent found offensive. The book in question was immediately removed from circulation. I have instructed Kate Byrode, our Librarian Director, to begin an inventory of the children's material. We encourage parents that come across any material in the children's section that may be deemed questionable, to bring it to the attention of the library staff immediately.

Sincerely,

Andreas Bisbikos

| Sent from my iPhone

