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He Made DeSantis Rewrite the Book Ban Law: Now He's Coming for Calle Ocho.

The Cuban-American community built the festival. Their legislators passed the law banning it. Somewhere in Tallahassee, nobody is connecting these dots. Chaz Stevens has a letter, nine public records requests, and a track record.

"The Cuban exile community founded Calle Ocho in 1978. Their legislators voted for SB 1134 nearly half a century later. I didn't create that irony. I'm just the delivery mechanism."

– Chaz Stevens, CLE Faculty

DEERFIELD BEACH, FL, March 12, 2026 — Chaz Stevens, the Florida constitutional stress tester whose Bible ban challenge forced Governor DeSantis to rewrite the state's own book-restriction law in 2024 — with DeSantis's office naming Stevens by name as the sole reason the change was needed — has now served a formal demand letter on Miami City Attorney George K. Wysong III targeting the City's structural entanglement with Calle Ocho Music Festival, widely billed as the largest Hispanic street festival in the United States.

It is the fourth such letter in 72 hours. Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, and Pensacola are already in the queue. Kissimmee, Jacksonville, and Tampa are next.

"I've been called a lot of things in thirty years of this work," Stevens said. "But I have never, not once, been accused of passing a law. I didn't write SB 1134. I'm just the first person in Florida who read it. And what I found is that the Legislature, in its limited finite wisdom, has passed a law banning Calle Ocho. I am not the problem here. I am the consequence. The unlubed dildo of consequences, to be exact."

The Law That Ate Its Own Supporters

SB 1134, passed by the Florida Legislature on March 10, 2026 and effective January 1, 2027, prohibits municipalities from funding, promoting, or taking official action in support of programming or activities "designed or implemented with reference to race, color, sex, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation." Existing resolutions, policies, and funding instruments inconsistent with the statute are automatically void on that date. Officials who knowingly continue prohibited conduct face misfeasance and malfeasance charges. In practice, it criminalizes what Florida has historically called heritage or DEI programming. Any city resident may sue in circuit court for declaratory relief, an injunction, and damages.

The statute's only carveouts protect federal holidays, Florida state holidays, and patriotic observances listed in specific federal code sections.

Calle Ocho is not a federal holiday. It is not a Florida state holiday. Somewhere in Tallahassee, a lobbyist is having a very long lunch and not picking up calls.

"The same Cuban-American legislators who voted for this bill went home to Little Havana for the weekend," Stevens said. "I hope the irony was

served with café con leche, because it doesn't get richer than this. They built the festival. They passed the law. I'm just the guy who read both documents and noticed they can't coexist after January 1, 2027."

The Festival Is Its Own Indictment

Calle Ocho Music Festival is organized by the Kiwanis Club of Little Havana, which describes it as "the world's largest Latin music festival" — a celebration of Latin American and Caribbean culture, showcasing folkloric dances, ethnicity-specific cuisine, and cultural performances representing specific national and ethnic heritages. The festival draws over one million attendees annually and generates an estimated \$40 million in economic impact.

"The organizers wrote their own probable cause," Stevens said. "Their mission statement is the statute's trigger, supplied by the organizer, in the organizer's own words, on the organizer's own website. I didn't have to argue anything. I just had to read. This is what we in the stress-testing business call a gimme."

The City's entanglement with the festival is not incidental — it is structural. In March 2020, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and City Commissioners publicly announced the cancellation of the Calle Ocho Festival. The Mayor of Miami controls whether this festival happens. On February 12, 2026, the Miami City Commission passed a resolution initiating creation of a Business Improvement District for the Calle Ocho corridor — a publicly authorized taxing district built around a culturally designated street whose identity is its ethnic heritage. The City provides police, fire, sanitation, and permitting infrastructure annually. The City's official social media, tourism platforms, and press materials have historically promoted Calle Ocho as a signature Miami event.

"Three prongs of the statute — official action, public funding, and municipal promotion — are all present," Stevens said. "The City cannot thread this needle. I've already written the response to every defense they're going to raise. I know, because I raised them myself and then answered them. It's a hobby."

The Certification Trap

Starting January 1, 2027, every organization receiving City of Miami funds must certify it does not use those funds for activities relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion as SB 1134 defines that term. The Kiwanis Club of Little Havana — whose entire organizational purpose is Latin American and Caribbean cultural heritage programming — cannot sign that certification truthfully.

"The City's options are a false certification or defunding," Stevens said. "Those are the only two options the statute provides. Pick one, Miami. I'll wait. Actually, I won't wait — I've filed nine public records requests while we're having this conversation."

"Governor Mojito should have me over for lunch and arroz con pollo," Stevens added. "I'm the only person in Florida taking his silly law seriously. Like Janet Reno and her red pickup, I'm working my way across the Sunshine State, picking off one heritage festival at a time."

A Statewide Campaign

The Miami demand letter is the fourth in what Stevens describes as a systematic audit of Florida's heritage festival landscape. Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, and Pensacola have each received similar letters in the past 72 hours. Kissimmee, Jacksonville, and Tampa are next.

"Every city in Florida with a heritage festival, an ethnic heritage month proclamation, a Caribbean cultural event at a city park, or a Juneteenth program at a local rec center is sitting on the same statute," Stevens said. "The only question is which city wants to be the test case. Miami gets to decide whether it's them. City Attorney Wysong has thirty days to tell me what Miami intends to do after January 1, 2027. A yes answer creates a statutory problem. A no answer is a political problem. Silence is its own kind of answer."

Stevens emphasized that his position on the underlying policy is distinct from his legal theory.

"For the record — I'm pro-DEI. I'm pro-Calle Ocho. I'm pro-café cubano on Calle Ocho while watching a million people have a spectacular time," Stevens said. "Like my successful Bible Ban effort, here again I seek the extraordinary precise application of State law, be it silly or not. When the going gets stupid, I'm typically first in line."

"This train wreck is coming to your neighborhood, courtesy of the Malicious Compliance Express. Next stop: Little Havana."

Stevens was asked whether he had any message for Miami specifically.

"The Super Bowl had Bad Bunny. Miami has Bad Chazzie. Coño."

About Chaz Stevens

Chaz Stevens is a Deerfield Beach-based civic systems auditor, municipal governance consultant, and IMLA CLE Faculty member with a 30-year track record of pro se federal First Amendment litigation and constitutional stress-testing of public forum neutrality. In 2024, DeSantis's office named Stevens as the sole example cited when the Governor signed legislation scaling back the state's book-restriction law — a law Stevens had broken by filing Bible ban challenges in dozens of school districts. His work has generated national media coverage including The Daily Show, The Colbert Report, NPR, Fortune, and the Associated Press. He is the founder of REVOLT Insights (revolt.training), which provides *Lindke v. Freed* social media liability audits and First Amendment compliance consulting to municipalities nationwide.

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