

PRESS RELEASE*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Contact: Chaz Stevens, CLE Faculty
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He Made DeSantis Rewrite the Book Ban Law.
Now He's **Coming for your Black and Tans.**

Fort Lauderdale's own demand letter recipient is the City Attorney.
It doesn't get more local than the parade.

*Laudy's been boozing up St. Paddy's Day since '67. That's soon to be illegal. Thanks to
Tally, we'll be throwing the baby out with the bathwater —
and the Guinness out with the DEI.*

– 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 scale back the state’s own book-restriction law in 2024 — with DeSantis’s office naming Stevens as the sole example of why the change was needed — today announced he has served a formal demand letter on Fort Lauderdale City Attorney Shari L. McCartney and filed an eight-custodian omnibus public records request against the City of Fort Lauderdale targeting what he says is the most politically uncomfortable application of SB 1134 yet: the City’s decades-old St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

“Last time I broke a DeSantis law, the Governor’s office called me out by name — then signed a bill fixing the problem I’d created,” Stevens said. “This time the target isn’t a Pride parade or a drag show. It’s Fort Lauderdale’s beloved St. Patrick’s Day Parade. The Las Olas Greek Festival. Juneteenth at City-owned facilities. If Ron wants to explain to South Florida why their parade is now a DEI program, I’ll get the fish and chips. Someone will need to peel Jack Seiler, the City’s Official Leprechaun, from the ceiling.”

SB 1134, soon to be signed into law 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.” Under § 166.04971(2), 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. Any city resident may sue for declaratory relief, an injunction, and damages.

SB 1134 prohibits municipalities from funding or promoting programming designed with reference to ethnicity.

Which is awkward if you’re funding something called the Greek Festival.

The statute’s only carveouts protect federal holidays under 5 U.S.C. § 6103, Florida state holidays under Chapter 683, and patriotic observances listed in 36 U.S.C. §§ 101–148. St. Patrick’s Day is not a federal holiday. The Las Olas Greek Festival is not a patriotic observance. Juneteenth programming at City recreation centers is not listed in any of those provisions.

“The Sun Sentinel has covered my work before — the Festivus poles, the Bible ban, the school board cases,” Stevens said. “Here’s the local angle: Fort Lauderdale has been funding, staffing, promoting, and insuring the St. Patrick’s Day Parade for decades. The City Attorney’s Office has eight public records requests in its inbox right now asking for every contract, every fee waiver, every social media post, every sponsorship package, every insurance certificate, and every internal memo about this parade. When those records come back, we’ll know exactly what’s void on January 1, 2027.”

“We’re gonna need to lay in an order for AED defibrillators.”

The Demand Letter and Eight-Custodian Records Request

Stevens has served a formal demand letter directly on City Attorney McCartney identifying the facial inconsistency between the City’s heritage event programming and § 166.04971, and demanding a written compliance response within thirty days. Simultaneously, he filed an omnibus Chapter 119 public records request covering eight City of Fort Lauderdale custodians: the City Clerk, City Attorney, Special Events Office, Parks and Recreation, the Office of Management and Budget, the Communications and Public Affairs Office, the Economic Development and Tourism Office, and Risk Management and Procurement.

“Eight custodians is not a fishing expedition. Don’t mean to go all DEI here, but it’s a dragnet,” Stevens said. “Every office that touched this parade — every contract, every press release, every limerick, every brogue, every social media post saying ‘come celebrate Irish heritage on Las Olas’ — is now potentially evidence. The City’s Communications Office was promoting an ethnicity-referenced event. That’s the statute’s ‘promoting’ prong. The Special Events Office waived fees for an ethnicity-referenced event. That’s the ‘funding’ prong. The City Commission passed resolutions endorsing it. That’s the ‘official action’ prong. Three for three. The law doesn’t grade on a curve.”

The Legal Theory: Forget DEI, It’s now a Liquid-Based Economic Stimulus Package

Stevens anticipates the City’s primary defense will be that its heritage events are open to everyone and therefore do not constitute preferential treatment. He rejects the argument as a misreading of the statute.

“The City’s lawyers are going to show up with ‘it’s open to everyone.’ I’ve read

that argument. I've already written the response to it," Stevens said. "The statute has three independent subsections. Subsection 2 covers preferential treatment. Subsection 3 — the one that matters here — independently prohibits any programming 'designed with reference to ethnicity.' No restricted access required. No preferential treatment required. Just designed with reference to ethnicity. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is literally named after a Catholic saint associated with Irish national identity. That's not a close call. That's the call."

Stevens also anticipates the City may attempt to recharacterize heritage event funding as "tourism promotion" or "economic development" to avoid the statute's reach.

"If Fort Lauderdale wants to argue the St. Patrick's Day Parade is really just a tourism marketing exercise that has nothing to do with Irish ethnicity, good luck on that. God be with you, my Son. Also, go ahead and make that argument to the Irish-American Heritage Society. Get ready to be roshambo'd. The statute regulates the nature of the activity, not the budget line line. Renaming the check doesn't change what's in the envelope."

"Will we now refer to St. Paddy's Day as 'The Annual Gathering of Really Hammered People Wearing a Specific Shade of Visible Light (Green) in the Scorching Florida Sun for No Particular Reason Whatsoever?'"

"Also, don't blame me. I didn't write the rules. I'm just the field test. Play stupid games, win stupid prizes. And in this case, the prize is me — the human version of the unlubed dildo of consequences."

The Certification Trap

Stevens also flagged the § 287.139 certification requirement effective January 1, 2027, which will require every City grant recipient to certify it does not use municipal funds for DEI-related activities.

"At some point the Fort Lauderdale Greek Festival is going to get a form from City Hall asking it to certify that its programming doesn't reference ethnicity," Stevens said. "The organization's entire existence is referencing ethnicity. So they can either lie on the form — that's potentially perjury — or they don't get the money. The Governor signed a law that defunds the Greek Festival. I didn't do that. He did. I'm just the one reading the fine print and holding my comedic tongue over Greek and anal."

Stevens noted that Fort Lauderdale's St. Patrick's Day Parade has run annually since

1967, and that he does not expect the City to permanently cancel it in response to his demand letter.

“Lauderdale is just the first, and most obvious, case,” Stevens said. “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 City rec center will soon find themselves bent over a Harp keg. Imma gonna take a tour around Broward, and exquisitely apply this silly law. Let’s see what happens when malicious compliance drops in for an Irish coffee. Imagine the citizen’s chagrin learning their beloved event is now illegal according to the brainiacs in Tallahassee.”

“Way to go, Gov. Bushmills. Have your people call my people, we’ll grab a few Irish Car Bombs at McSorley’s.”

Bono could not be reached for comment.

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

“For the record, I’m pro-DEI. I’m pro-Greek Festival. I’m pro-St. Patrick’s Day Parade. I’m pro-Juneteenth. I’m pro-all of it. It’s a damn party, count me in,” Stevens said. “But the Governor signed a law that makes all of it illegal, and then nobody read it. Duh, and/or hello? Like my successful Bible Ban effort, here again I seek the precise application of State law, be it asinine or not. When the going gets stupid, I’m usually the first to go in.”

About Chaz Stevens

Chaz Stevens is a Florida -based civic activist, 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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