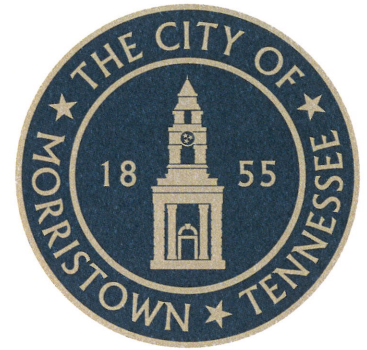


# The City of Morristown

Office of the Mayor



## STATEMENT FROM OUR MAYOR

I believe it appropriate for me to make a few comments about the annual Christmas Parade which was held December 7.

First, let me give a loud shout out to our Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce and its volunteers who worked to plan, direct and accomplish a truly outstanding event. From my own experience, through both participation and observation, the Parade was quite impressive.

However, I think I need to direct our attention to a very small segment of the Parade that was not impressive.

An individual who properly registered and signed documents assuring responsible participation in the Parade, failed to honor that pledge. Our volunteer workers at the Parade were caught unaware until the event was underway.

This individual rode on his vehicle displaying symbols representing what the heavy majority of the public perceives to be that of hatred and racism. To display such in the Morristown Christmas Parade is inappropriate. Personally, I was embarrassed for our city and for any population group to which the individual may have been targeting.

I also know from feedback received by a number of viewers along the parade route, there was a widespread response of dead silence as the vehicle passed briefly interrupting what was overall a most joyful event.

I hope all segments of our population understand our response and know the Chamber has already begun discussions of policy changes to prevent a future occurrence.

Thank you for allowing me to share this response with you. Let's look forward to another great parade in 2024!

Gary Chesney – Mayor  
City of Morristown

