

Some say peace march gives city a bad name

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"Farmington is a good community," he said. "All I want to do is make Farmington better."

RALLY SUPPORTERS came from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Warren, Lathrup Village, Southfield, Pontiac, Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, Ferndale, Highland Park, Silver Lake, Detroit, Rochester and other cities.

Against opposition from family, friends and church members, who asked him to "turn around" and cancel the event for his own safety, Success, a former lay employee at Berea St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Highland Park, stood firm to "go down Grand River, even if I have to crawl."

At a press conference before the march, Mayor Richard Tupper said, "We have asked ourselves, has there been racial strife or cultural differences in this community that would warrant the kind of display that will take place this after-

noon? I don't think so."

"To my knowledge, there have been no reported incidents of racial or ethnic discrimination in the community for the past 15 years or more, until the incident that was reported by Mr. Derwin Success in 1987," he added.

In that incident two days before Christmas, vandals spray-painted his house with obscenities and racial slurs.

"The city is committed to making 'Farmington the best place to live,' Tupper said.

CITY COUNCILMAN Ralph Yoder said he didn't think the march was necessary. "I've been here for 48 years and we have never had any trouble. I resent what this is doing to our community," he said.

"I think it has gotten carried away," said a Farmington business owner who asked to remain anonymous. "I know one other store owner who wanted to board up the store for the day.

Some area residents were disappointed with Farmington city officials' lack of support for the peace march.

"They better start slipping into the 21st Century," said Vicki Jones of Farmington Hills. "Many people want to say everything is sweet and nice in Farmington Hills, but it's not true," said her husband, William Jones.

Two men who had supported Success, Chris Rowland of Farmington Hills and Steve Howell of Farmington, left Love Force United after some questions arose about his credibility.

"There is a lot of unspoken racism without incident," Rowland said. "There is a lot of racial tension in Farmington. You can feel it."

"There must be racism (in Farmington) for so many people to be here," Howell said. "But it's meant for people to come and listen and accept the change."

"I DON'T think this makes the city look bad," said Shirley Griffiths of Farmington Hills. "I think there is a lot of support for him (Success)."

In his statement at a rally on the grounds of city hall, Success blessed the Farmington city officials who challenged the need for the march.

He also blessed other opposing groups that threatened community safety. "Violence is not the way, violence only turns us back," he said. "Hate isn't the way either. The way is love."

"Remember, this is about love," he added. "Remember, this is about togetherness."

Success said he prayed the neo-Nazi group that had planned to protest the march would pull out, which it did two days earlier.

POLICE ARRESTED seven people on concealed weapons and disorderly conduct charges in connection with the march.

Four of those arrested on weapons charges were juveniles, who were stopped at Farmington High shortly before the march, after police watched them drive past the Success house on Shiawassee several times.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

March organizer Derwin Success, left, received support Sunday from Farmington High teacher Jerry Young, right, who asked parents at the

rally what they've taught their children about Farmington's changing cultural makeup.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Farmington Hills Mercy High junior class president Elizabeth Plezian (left) and Marcha Kravens, both 16, supported the racial harmony rally in Farmington Sunday. They say they dress the way they do because the want to separate themselves from others; they're not skinheads who believe in white supremacy. Plezian is a member of FOCUS: Hope and Amnesty International.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

As Cheryl Karpinski (left), 22, of Warren, marched Sunday, "There were people on the sidewalk calling me a 'nigger lover,'" she said. "And they're right. I'm a lover of all people."

Elizina Hayes, 26, of Southfield, said she teaches her three daughters, "They have a right to feel and say something as long as they don't hurt anybody."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Lawrence Schuster (left), father of Diana Success' two children, watched pre-march developments in the Uptown Farmington Plaza parking lot alongside Farmington City Council members William Harlock and Ralph Yoder.

Success children barred from peace march, rally

By Casey Hane and Noreen Flack staff writers

The two children of Diana Success, the wife of last weekend's peace march and rally organizer Derwin Success, were halted by court order from attending Sunday's events. Wayne County Circuit Judge Lucile Watts signed a restraining order Friday afternoon, barring Diana Success from taking her children to the events because of possible violence. The order was requested by the children's father, Lawrence Schuster.

Schuster, a Spring Lake, Mich., resident, appeared at Sunday's march and rally to verify that his children would not march.

"My main reason to be here is to make sure my kids aren't in any danger," Schuster said. "I want to make sure my kids aren't exposed to any violence."

Schuster said he believed in the ideals of the march, but not necessarily the method. "I think people need to be educated to overcome racism and bigotry, but I'm not sure how much effect this march will have on educating people," he said. "I think there is a minority of people

'I think people need to be educated to overcome racism and bigotry.'

— Lawrence Schuster

that are racist, but I think you can find racism everywhere."

SCHUSTER'S COURT pleading said his ex-wife intended to take the children to the Sunday march and that he "greatly fears for the physical safety of his children" because the Successes "have received death threats over the past year."

The document also said Schuster had asked his ex-wife not to involve the children, and that she refused. Schuster's Livonia attorney, John Carney, said Schuster contacted him last Thursday night, and that he and his staff walked the restraining order through the courts Friday.

Schuster said he knew about the planned march, but did not hear about any possible violence until several days before the event was scheduled to take place.

He said he was surprised by Derwin Success' announcement Sunday that a spring rally was planned for Lansing, and said it plans for a future rally drew more violence, he would not want his children involved.

DIANA SUCCESS and Schuster have joint legal custody of the children, with she having physical custody, according to the divorce decree granted by Watts in 1983. The couple then lived in Livonia.

Diana Success and the two children did not attend Sunday's events. They were seen leaving their Shiawassee Street house shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday and were also seen near the rally stage before the events began.

The children's stepfather, Derwin Success, said Sunday before the afternoon march, "I don't think it's important that she (his wife) comes. I think it is important that I am here. God asked me to be here."

Meanwhile, Farmington police are investigating a property destruction incident at the Success house that the family says occurred Saturday when the court papers were served. The Successes told police the process server drove a spike into their front door to serve the papers.

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