



Empire City's 55th Anniversary Dinner



Join us Saturday, 12th October for a fantastic dinner at Elmo in celebration of Empire City MC's 55th Anniversary!

The event starts with a cash bar, opening at 6pm with passed appetisers, then on to a gourmet all-you-care-to-eat buffet dinner at 7pm!

We have the entire restaurant to ourselves, and a fantastic spread of food!

Tickets are on sale online now.

Empire City MC's 55th Anniversary Dinner will be at Elmo, 156 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011. Tickets are now on sale now, so get 'em while they're available! The event starts with a cash bar, opening at 6pm with passed appetisers, then on to a gourmet all-you-care-to-eat buffet dinner at 7pm! We have the entire restaurant to ourselves, and a fantastic spread of food! Tickets are on sale now at <https://ecmc-55.eventbrite.com/>

If you have any questions about the event or housing, please contact Chaz at Vice-President@EmpireCityMC.com

9/11, Eighteen Years Later

It's so difficult to believe that nearly twenty years have passed since the 9/11 attacks. There's so much left unanswered and so many people killed and irreparably harmed from this cowardice attack on the United States. We now have to contend with the TSA and their [illusion of safety](#) at airports (honestly, more of an inconvenience and an invasion of privacy than anything else) as well as the 100-mile "[reduced constitution zone](#)" where as an American Citizen, you can be stopped and asked for identification for no reason at all and then there's all the [data-mining and surveillance](#) on American Citizens. It's all quite problematic and an invasion of our privacy. The buildings in the financial district are replaced and even bigger ones are being built, but what was really lost in this was our right to privacy. Today's children will grow up never knowing what it's like to not be on CCTV when in public. Become involved, vote smart, talk with your elected representatives. Consider joining the [ACLU](#) and the [EFF](#) today to help protect your freedoms as Americans.



“Fuck Off! We don’t serve your kind here!” – Arizona Supreme Court Rules Business Can Refuse Service to Same-Sex Couples

The Arizona Supreme Court ruled Monday that a Phoenix business can refuse service to same-sex couples, overruling the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance.

The artists who operate Brush & Nib, which makes invitations and other wedding-related items, argued in a 2016 lawsuit that the ordinance violated their religious beliefs by forcing them to custom-make products for same-sex marriage ceremonies.

The court, voting 4-3, ruled that the rights to free speech and free exercise of religion include “the right to create and sell words, paintings, and art that express a person’s sincere religious beliefs.

“With these fundamental principles in mind, today we hold that the City of Phoenix (the “City”) cannot apply its Human Relations Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) to force Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski, owners of Brush & Nib Studios, LC (“Brush & Nib”), to create custom wedding invitations celebrating same-sex wedding ceremonies in violation of their sincerely held religious beliefs,” Justice Andrew Gould wrote in the opinion.

Gould wrote that the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance violates the state’s constitution in this case.



“To conclude, we hold that the Ordinance, as applied to Plaintiffs’ custom wedding invitations, and the creation of those invitations, unconstitutionally compels speech in violation of the Arizona Constitution’s free speech clause,” he wrote.

He specified that the opinion was not necessarily meant to apply to situations outside of the Brush & Nib case.

“The City’s concern that our decision will undermine the anti-discrimination purpose of the Ordinance, or that it will encourage other businesses to use free speech as a pretext to discriminate against protected groups, is unwarranted,” Gould said.

“Our holding today is limited to Plaintiffs’ creation of one product: custom wedding invitations that are materially similar to the invitations contained in the record.”

The city further clarified that the ordinance is “still a legal, valid law and remains in effect.”

Justices John Lopez and John Pelander joined Gould in the opinion. Justice Clint Bolick filed a concurring opinion, while Justices Ann Timmer and Scott Bales and Judge Christopher Staring dissented.

Staring was sitting in for Chief Justice Robert Brutinel, who recused himself from the case.

Pelander and Bales worked on the case to its conclusion despite both having retired earlier this year. The justices who replaced them, James Beene and Bill Montgomery, were not part of the vote.

“Our constitutions and laws do not entitle a business to discriminate among customers based on its owners’ disapproval of certain groups, even if that disapproval is based on sincerely held religious beliefs,” Bales wrote in the dissenting opinion.

Two courts previously upheld the constitutionality of the ordinance and rejected the arguments made by the artists.

The Arizona Court of Appeals previously ruled that while the ordinance may have an incidental effect on free speech, its main purpose is to prohibit discrimination.

The appeals court concluded the ordinance regulates conduct, not speech.

The penalty for violating the ordinance would have been up to six months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.



You've Got Mail!

Just wanted you guys to know how much I enjoy receiving your "ECMC Rumbings" each month. I was saddened to learn in your August Rumbings that you are down to eight (8) active members.

I first became involved with the leather/levi motorcycle club scene back in the late 1960's when I lived and worked in Washington, DC. I had a security job with the federal government back then, so being a gay man was something that one did not be let known. Things certainly have changed since then!

I became involved with the Spartan MC because of Don B and Neil R A/K/A Mai Ling. I eventually became a member of the Spartan MC LA (Lost Angels) since I did not own a motorcycle. The motorcycle club scene was very close and closed, but once one became accepted, you became part of a very close loyal family. I was also a member of the Cycle MC in New York City (Don D and Richard K). Both Cycle and SMCLA were part of AMCC. I lived in Boston for a short time before moving here to the west coast in 1970. While in Boston, I was involved with the Viking MC, but was never a member.

It is hard to believe that over fifty (50) years have passed since those days. I want to congratulate Empire City MC on your 55th anniversary. There were lots of good times and lots of great guys. I guess that your club and the Satyr MC here in California are the last of the gay motorcycle clubs.

I recently turned eighty years old. Damn where does the time go? Anyway, I just wanted to say thanks for brightening my life every month with your ECMC Rumbings and thanks for bringing back all those memories of times past.

I am attaching a picture from a magazine from the late '60's or early '70's that had an article on gay bike clubs. Do any of your guys recognize the guys in the pictures? I thought that they might be Empire City MC guys?

Bob K

Editor's note: Our club historian, Mark W reports that: "Fernando is sitting on the motorcycle in the picture. He was an early member and president who left the club along with Richard K and Don D to found Cycle MC." We love to get mail! Send your letters, stories, photos, event information to newsletter@empirecitymc.org – you never know, it might just get published!



Winding Down The 2019 Riding Season

There are a few new events in our calendar for you to check out – some of these upcoming rides sound like fun! There are even two rides on our 55th Anniversary Weekend ('Rumble for Ronald' and the 'Wiener Ride'). As always, we publish our events and rides to encourage others to come along; however, we know that not all of you have motorcycles – so, consider reaching out to us and seeing if one of our members would be able and willing to take you along on the back seat – the best way to do this is reach out to our Road Captain at Road-Captain@empirecitymc.com or post a message asking about being a passenger on a ride on our facebook group, <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> – we'll be gentle and a reach-around is completely optional. 😊



Ask our [new pledge](#), Jack about how he got into motorcycles!

UPCOMING EVENTS & RIDES

Sat 21st September: RIDE: 7th Annual Fallen Heroes Ride, 3 Centre Square, Easton, PA 18042, USA. Riders \$20, Passengers \$5. Registration 10am-12:15pm and KSU (kick-stands up) at 12:15.

Sun 28th September: RIDE: Bike Hospital for Special Surgery Benefit. A moto crew is needed for a one-day bicycle ride to perform safety crossings and sweeps. If you're interested, register at <https://bikehss.org/> as a volunteer and mention Empire City MC.

Sun 29th September: RIDE: The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride. This is a huge ride – tens of thousands of distinguished gentlemen in hundreds of cities worldwide will don their cravats, tweak their moustaches, press their tweed and sit astride their classic and vintage styled motorcycles to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and men's mental health.

Wed 2nd October, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Sun 5th October: RIDE: Long Island Chicken Run and classic bikes! We depart Manhattan for lunch on Long Island at Zorn's of Bethpage, then it's up to Oyster Bay to visit Billy Joel's Motorcycle Garage (20th Century Cycle). Meet in front of NYC Bagel at 714 2nd Ave, kickstands up at 11am prompt! Bring your E-Z Pass and leave your radioactive materials at home as we will go through the Midtown Tunnel to get to Long Island.

Sat 12th October: RIDE: Rumble for Ronald! Another Ronald McDonald House benefit. You can do this before our anniversary dinner! Meet up at the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley, 80 Woods Rd, Valhalla, NY 10595. It's only \$20 per rider when you bring an unwrapped toy, or \$40 without a toy. Passengers are \$10 each. Registration: 09:30-10:45, KSU at 11:00. The end point is Hudson Valley H.D., 33 Route 304, Nanuet, NY 10954. More Info: <https://www.floriansknights.com/>

Sat 12th October, 18:00-23:00: EVENT: Empire City MC's 55th Anniversary Dinner at Elmo, 156 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011. Tickets are now on sale for Empire City MC's 55th Anniversary Dinner! Get 'em while they're available! The event starts with a cash bar, opening at 6pm with passed appetisers, then on to a gourmet all-you-care-to-eat buffet dinner at 7pm! We have the entire restaurant to ourselves, and a fantastic spread of food! Tickets are on sale now at <https://ecmc-55.eventbrite.com/>

Sat 13th October: RIDE: Wiener Ride (Biketoberfest) start and end at Dobbs DawgHouse. Meet at Dobbs DawgHouse, KSU at 10am. This ride is aimed towards the power of the small bore but all bike sizes are welcome. We'll up to beautiful Bear Mountain and back to the Dawg House for some crazy custom dawgs. Riders from all over welcome. This isn't a race, this isn't a stunt show, this is just an opportunity for us all to get together again and enjoy one more good day of riding, eating, and appreciating each other's rides...all for the love of two wheels!

Wed 6th November, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Fri 8th – 10th November: EVENT: Harbour Masters of Maine - 37th Sailaway in Portland, Maine.

Wed 4th December, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting, held 8pm-9pm on the first Wednesday of each month at "The Centre" 208 W 13th St, New York, NY 10011. All interested men and prospective members are welcome to attend. Always check with the front desk/schedule to see which room we're in.

Sat 7th December, 18:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's 56th Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive at Stonewall Inn

Tue 31st December, 18:00 – 02:00: Happy New Year: 2020!

Wed 8th January 2020, 20:00 – 21:00: Empire City MC's Open General Meeting.

REMEMBER: There are plenty of other events and rides added to our official calendar on a regular basis, especially day rides! Bookmark our official calendar at calendar.EmpireCityMC.com and come along with us on some great rides!

Our physical mailing address is: **Empire City MC, 10 W 15th St, Suite 609, New York, NY 10011-6821.** Empire City MC is a member of the Atlantic Motorcycle Coordinating Council. For membership information, visit <http://empirecitymc.com/membership.php> to view/download our constitution, bylaws and membership application. We're on facebook at <http://facebook.EmpireCityMC.com> Please send any articles, photos or letters to the editor at newsletter@EmpireCityMC.org