
Subject: Email - Communication - Marjaleena Repo - Mandatory Masks on Buses - File CK 270-7

From: Web NoReply
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:41 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Marjaleena Repo - Mandatory Masks on Buses - File CK 270-7

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 - 10:41

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Wednesday, August 26, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Marjaleena
Last Name Repo
Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Elm Street
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Bus Riders of Saskatoon not a representative group of transit riders
Meeting (if known)
Comments

A group calling itself Bus Riders of Saskatoon made a presentation to the Governance committee on August 24, its spokesman, Robert Clipperton, claiming that an "overwhelming majority" of the group's members support mandatory masks on buses. I am a "member" of the group and have participated on its Facebook, which now has 1,100 other "members," but at no time has there been a poll of any kind to determine what bus users think and want, and the pro-mask majority can merely be found on the Facebook where contrary opinions have been chased away, people "removed," censored and relentlessly attacked — I have the scars to prove this! — leaving the ardent mask-supporters as the "overwhelming majority" of those who participate in the discussions! Easy to have consensus under these circumstances, but it is neither a representative or valid consensus.

But there is another problem with the Bus Riders' claim of 1,100 "members." The group's Facebook list actually does not consist of only bus riders, but has on it anyone who might be interested, for whatever reasons, in what is happening with the city's transit. Among them you can find several city councillors themselves, media people, city employees, transit employees, including drivers, and those with an academic interest in cities and transits, and on it goes. The actual bus riders can be easily outnumbered by "interested" people, and by those who have a direct conflict with the actual riders (such as the driver who declared publicly in the early stages of the

lockdown that he had the "right" to examine the passengers' reason for being on the bus, and if not "valid," in his opinion, had the "right" to deny them access!)

Then there is also the undeniable fact that a large number of bus riders are NOT on the Facebook, don't have a computer, smart phone, or the necessary skills for them, and furthermore can't afford such equipment and data that online participation requires. To my knowledge there has never been an effort made by the Bus Riders group to find out what THESE people think about the transit and mandated masks, yet the spokesperson was not shy to make a presentation to the city in the name of an "overwhelming majority." One of the councillors, Darren Hill, who sang the praises of the group and asked for the city to involve it more in any future plans related to transit, is also on the Bus Riders' Facebook, and therefore a "member," and neither he nor any of the other councillors declared their own conflict of interest in the case and/or asked any questions about the group's claim for truly representing Saskatoon's transit users on the mask or any other transit-related issue.

I ask that the council take a more active interest in asking for validation for this or any other group's and organizations' claim that they actually DO represent the people they claim to speak for.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]