
Subject: 6.1.1- Request to Speak - Janna Bernatsky - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:41 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Janna Bernatsky - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

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

Submitted on Sunday, March 5, 2023 - 21:41

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Sunday, March 05, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

First Name: Janna

Last Name: Bernatsky

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: JAH-nah bur-NAT-skee

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Lenore Drive, [REDACTED]

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: PUBLIC AGENDA STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 6.1.1 Facility Change Room Safety [CK 100-26]

Comments:

I support the current policies regarding the use of change rooms at city facilities. I support the rights of transgender people to use the change room that reflects their gender. This use should be free of harassment to provide everyone with the opportunity to use change rooms in safety.

The concerns that Mr. Friesen has about safety in public change rooms are unfounded if only based on statistics alone. Firstly, according to the government of Canada (<https://www.sexassault.ca/statistics.htm>) the majority of sexual violence in Canada is committed by someone close to the victim, not a stranger, and 80% of sex crimes are committed by friends and/or family members. Additionally, over 80% of sexual violence crimes are committed in the home, NOT in public. Also, according to the Government of Canada, transgender individuals are statistically significantly more likely to experience sexual violence than their cisgender counterparts. Mr. Friesen also counters that transgender people are not real and are just pretending for their own personal gain. However, according to the 2021 Canadian census, over 100,815 citizens over 15 years old identify as transgender. This information combined with the above statistics on gender based violence suggests no evidence that anyone would choose to be transgender, as it is one of the most discriminated-against visible minorities in Canada. Finally, in the Saskatchewan human rights code, specific protections are put in place for transgender Canadians, including access to their correct washrooms/changing facilities. Not only would it be immoral to restrict the rights of an already marginalized people group, as Mr. Friesen is suggesting, but it is also grounds for legal repercussions based on provincial and federal legislation.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No