
Subject: 6.1.1 Email - Request to Speak - Kyle Anderson - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26
Attachments: KA letter to council.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:24 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Kyle Anderson - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

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

Submitted on Monday, March 6, 2023 - 14:23

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Monday, March 06, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Kyle

Last Name: Anderson

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: Health Sciences Building, University of Saskatchewan

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7N [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): n/a

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):: March 8th, 9:30 am SPC-PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

Comments:
letter attached

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

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to listen and deliberate on the very important issue of public safety at city facilities. From public comments by council on this issue it is clear that the City of Saskatoon is well aware of their legal obligation to ensure facilities do not discriminate on the basis of gender identity or gender expression as these were formally enshrined as protected rights by Federal Bill C-16, added to the Canadian Human Rights Act in 2017 and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code in 2018.

As a member of this community, I believe it is our duty to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their gender identity or gender expression. Transgender individuals face significant challenges in our society, including discrimination, violence, and exclusion. Canadian national statistics tell us that transgender and gender non-conforming people are not the perpetrators put forth in the false narratives pushed by those with hateful political agendas. More accurately, those statistics show that transgender people are victims of a hostile society, in which the hostility ranges from indifference to negligence and out-right malice. Due to overwhelming lack of support for basic human rights and social stigma, transgender people are 7 times more likely to suffer from substance abuse, 5 times more likely to have mental health issues and 5 times more likely to attempt suicide – all due to unresolved trauma from a lack of supports from society. Transgender individuals are four times more likely than cisgender individuals to be victims of a violent crime. Transgender and gender non-conforming people are more than twice as likely to experience severe poverty and homelessness. These are our neighbours, our family members, our coworkers, our community members in places of worship, at the hockey rink and the grocery store – members of society who simply wish to live their truth without being labelled as sickos, pedophiles, perverts or whatever disgusting terms bigoted individuals use to justify their hate and to convince others that their hatred is justified. I would like to note and remind council, that not only did federal bill C-16 add gender identity and expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act, it also added these as protected categories under the criminal code targeting hate speech and hate crimes.

The challenges transgender individuals face can be especially pronounced when it comes to accessing public facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms. Many transgender individuals face harassment and violence when attempting to use facilities that correspond with their gender identity. This is unacceptable, and it is our responsibility as a community to ensure that everyone feels safe and welcome in our public spaces. It is important to recognize that allowing transgender individuals access to facilities that match their gender identity is not only a matter of basic human rights, but it is also consistent with best practices in public health and safety. Most experts agree that the most effective way to create safe and inclusive facilities is to allow individuals to use the facilities that match their gender identity, not forcefully and illegally exclude them.

This brings me to why we're here today – an unsubstantiated claim, rooted in hate, designed to deprive citizens of their rights. Saskatoon is not unique in this respect – the fabrication of similarly false public pool changeroom incidents have been amplified by ideologically malignant news media in Calgary Alberta, Nanaimo BC, with further zero-evidence incidents from the US and UK. Hate-driven protests against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals at city facilities in Calgary resulted in hate crime charges against a protesting Calgary pastor just days ago. Over the weekend at America's largest

republican political conference a member of government called for the eradication of transgenderism. This is akin to genocide as there is no such thing as transgenderism. It is an identity, not an ideology. It is clear to anyone paying attention that hateful rhetoric is being amplified, and an increase in hate crimes is going to be the consequence. Action and allyship are needed now, more than ever. I know that city council will commit to following the law today, but will they further commit to doing what is right and good to strengthen our community's social fabric, to protect and uplift transgender people and their rights during this mounting onslaught of violence?

I invite the council to reflect today, what does that commitment look like?

Today, these protests and actions to spread hate and vilify transgender individuals while depriving them of access to public facilities is the real issue. So what then, can the city of Saskatoon do that is both legal and moral? What does a commitment to the equal rights of everyone in this city look like? I am calling on the city to offer the same type of protections that other communities have designed to protect people seeking care at abortion facilities from attacks and intimidation by anti-abortion protesters. I am calling on the city to create a safe-access zone bylaw to prevent protest within 100 meters of public pools and libraries. Protest is a legal right, intimidation is not. The city of Saskatoon is an equity partner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and claims to value diversity, equity and inclusion. It's time for this city to uphold those principles with more than just words. It's time for Saskatoon to take action to protect the real victims here.

With sincere thanks,

Kyle Anderson