
Subject: 6.1.1 Request to Speak - Gabriela Fuentealba - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

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

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2023 8:19 PM

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

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Gabriela Fuentealba - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

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

Submitted on Sunday, March 5, 2023 - 20:19

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: She/her/hers

First Name: Gabriela

Last Name: Fuentealba

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Fwent - L - ba

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] 5th Street East

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7H [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):: SPC-PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - PUBLIC

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Facility Change Room Safety

Comments:

I want to lend my support to our transgendered community as I understand the issue of transgender people using bathrooms has become a topic of discussion and issue.

I want to simply speak on the need to ensure transgender people feel included in our greater community and not made to feel other or perceived as a threat. As far as I know there is no increased risk to anyone when transgender people access bathrooms that correspond to their gender.

Private or separate bathrooms are also a problem because it just pushes more segregation. I think it's good private genderless bathrooms exist but as an example, the private unisex "family" bathroom at the midtown plaza mall is locked and you have to page someone to open it. As someone with a baby that may need such a bathroom to access a change table that's inconvenient and stressful. Add to that a transgender person feeling like they may need to explain to a staff person why they need to access such a bathroom. This is Explaining others don't need to do.

The concerns raised by some over safety and particularly women's safety in bathrooms accessed by a transgender woman are ignorant and not based on fact. People use washrooms for the same reasons. Transgender people as a group do not use washrooms for nefarious reasons.

If there are concerns that someone who is not transgendered but rather is a man who decides to access a woman's washroom to harass women, this is not remedied by excluding transgender people from women's bathrooms. Such a person would likely engage in this type of harmful behaviour regardless of the policies in place to include transgender people in use of washrooms that best fit their gender.

What this type of fear mongering does is attempt to pathologize and demonized transgender people. It is based on lack of understanding on what it means to be transgender. It is not someone "playing dress up" it is someone expressing their true gender identity. Transgender people are also far more likely than any other group to be subjected to hate and violence.

Their safety is increasingly being threatened by harmful policies and I just want to make sure there are voices of support.

Stats from UCLA school of law Study:

- Transgender people over four times more likely than cisgender people to be victims of violent crime

From a Canadian article written by Abigail Curlew on the conversation.com

- Despite the lack of police data, there has been some research into the struggles faced by trans Canadians. In 2013, the Trans PULSE Project published results of a survey of 433 trans Ontarians. Their report said, "experiences of transphobia were nearly universal among trans Ontarians, with 98 per cent reporting at least one experience of transphobia."

- Another survey conducted by Egale in 2011, which surveyed 3,700 LGBTQ students across Canada, reported that 74 per cent of trans students in Canada faced verbal harassment and 37 per cent have faced physical harassment.

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