

Bryant, Shellie

From: Web NoReply
Sent: October 29, 2021 6:18 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: letter_to_mayor_and_council.pdf

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

Submitted on Friday, October 29, 2021 - 06:17

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, October 29, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Vern

Last Name Bachiu

Phone Number ([REDACTED])

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Evergreen Blvd.

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Covid/Vaccinations/Restrictions

Meeting (if known)

Comments I am not requesting to speak. I am submitting this letter for consideration.

Attachments

[letter to mayor and council.pdf](#)

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]

Letter to Mayor and Council
City of Saskatoon
October 29, 2021

Subject: Tone at the Top/COVID Decisions

I want to start by thanking you for serving in leadership for our city. It is a sacrifice of personal time to try to make the city a better place for all its residents. This is especially true in a time when we are becoming more divided and polarized.

I am writing to you as you consider matters related to vaccination passports and other covid-related restrictions. I'm sure I don't know what the correct course of action is. You are charged with making important decisions and I respect and appreciate the challenges with arriving at responsible decisions.

That said, I'm very concerned with the tone that is being set in the debate surrounding this issue. The tone is set at the top. At a time when everyone has become an expert overnight on this complex public health issue, it is important that sane heads prevail. There is so much vitriol and self-righteousness that is being passed off as informed debate. This is happening in the public square and even in comments coming from Mayor and Council.

There is a division being established between those who are vaccinated and those who are not. The unvaccinated are increasingly being seen as irresponsible and deliberately trying to harm friends, families, and neighbours. I urge you to remember that you have been elected to represent the electorate as a whole. Most of the unvaccinated that I speak to are unvaccinated for principled reasons. They are not the dangerous fringe thinkers that they are being played out to be. Rather than punishing them and making them the object of scorn and ridicule, this is a time for understanding. Heaping criticism and name calling makes people more entrenched rather than encouraging them to change their minds and opinions. What if they actually have something to say and contribute to the debate and their views are informed!

I have a married daughter and husband and another son who are unvaccinated. They are not the people that are described in the media as dangerous to society and selfish and self-serving. Their decision has cost them dearly and it is a disservice to them and to the covid-related debate to demonize the unvaccinated.

The tone of the debate really is set at the top. If public officials speak with vitriol and harsh words, that tone gets magnified in the public debates. Once again, I do not know what the right course of action is regarding vaccinations and passports. Having another uninformed opinion does not move the discussion forward. However, I am absolutely certain that this is the time for statesmanship.

I am urging you to rise above the fray. We need to rise above all of the tone of the current conversation. We are friends, families, and neighbours. Is this really the issue that are going to

let divide us? Division is the easiest thing in the world. It takes courage, discipline, and forward thinking to rise above the current tone and bring a tone of civility and respect. I urge you to take this higher road.

Yours sincerely,
Vern Bachiu

