

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communications - Ollie Coates - Saskatoon as 2SLGBTQ+ "Safe" city - CK 100-026

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

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:13 AM

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

Subject: Email - Communications - Ollie Coates - Saskatoon as 2SLGBTQ+ "Safe" city - CK 100-026

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

Submitted on Friday, March 21, 2025 - 11:12

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

First Name: Ollie

Last Name: Coates

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: COATS

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Louise Ave

Ward: Ward 6

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: March 26 2025 9:30 am

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Saskatoon as 2SLGBTQ+ "Safe" city

Comments:

Hello, I am commenting today on the proposed designation of Saskatoon as a "safe" city, reduced from the proposed term of "sanctuary" city for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. In my opinion and experience, while safety is certainly important and aspirational, Saskatoon has not taken the steps necessary to pat ourselves on the back and declare that we have attained it. It is hollow and insincere for Saskatoon to declare as "safe" when many of our municipal facilities do not have gender neutral washroom facilities in a time when washroom usage is incredibly politicized for queer people - this is something entirely within the city's control. Changing/removing gendered signage would be much more of an immediate tangible show of safety than the symbolic act of merely declaring that Saskatoon is safe. It is not appropriate for Saskatoon to self-declare as "safe" when racialized 2SLGBTQ+ people are disproportionately policed. Saskatoon schools are NOT safe when trans children are forced to stay closeted or be outed without their consent. I am glad that this discussion is taking place and the city is considering its role in making Saskatoon safe, but it is not appropriate to declare that the goal has been reached as a symbolic act instead of taking the necessary steps to achieve real safety. Please take real steps to ensure safety instead of symbolic gestures. Thank you.

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