
From: City Council
Subject: Comments - Nathan Coppens - Motion to Strengthen Public Permitting Process

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 3:04 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Comments - Nathan Coppens - Motion to Strengthen Public Permitting Process

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

Submitted on Monday, August 11, 2025 - 14:54

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: Monday, August 11, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Nathan

Last Name: Coppens

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: NAY-than COH-pens

Phone Number : [639](tel:639-) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue C N

Ward: Ward 2

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known): Governance and Priorities Committee

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Notice of Motion to Strengthen Public Permitting Process

Comments:

I think it's great to strengthen the permitting process going forward, in light of Sean Feucht's upcoming concert here. I sincerely implore you to take the steps as well to cancel his performance, not just to prevent future events whereat white Christian nationalist hate-mongers could be given a platform. Let's stop this one now.

Mayor Block, you have said that we need to do diligence in terms of protecting Sean Feucht's freedom of speech. At the rally outside city hall, you raised the question to attendees of who would stand up for their freedom of speech if we were to deny someone else's. I've seen similar rhetoric in a video you and your team made and posted online.

We do not have freedom of speech. Freedom of expression is protected under Section 2 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but the Charter permits government to enforce reasonable limits censoring speech, typically regarding hate speech and defamation.

If Sean Feucht doesn't fall under the category of hate speech, I don't know who does. The following are from posts I found on X from his account:

- "11 NFL teams decided NOT to participate in pride month. This is the way!"

- "If I had shown up with purple hair and a dress, claiming to be a woman, the government wouldn't have said a word. But to publicly profess deeply held Christian beliefs is to be labeled an extremist—and to have a free worship event classified as a public safety risk." (Remember, the "public safety risk" he's referring to here is violating gathering rules during a pandemic that killed millions of people. And his misrepresentation and dismissal of trans and gender-fluid people is abhorrent.)

- "The Let Us Worship movement was born as an organic response to authoritarian COVID-19 lockdown policies—policies that, in Canada, were among the most oppressive in the world. The pandemic may be over, but the anti-Christian bias remains."

- "I've been in touch with senior White House officials and they are watching what is unfolding with blatant Christian persecution in Canada.

We're keeping all receipts too."

- "CHRISTIANS: This is your warning to completely separate yourselves from this demonic, blasphemous administration. They are evil." (In response to Biden declaring March 31, 2024 Transgender Day of Visibility)

Regarding the sermon Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde gave at Trump's inauguration, where she implored Trump to "have mercy upon the people in [their] country who are scared now." She specifically mentioned gay, lesbian, and transgender children. She pleaded for mercy for them from MAGA. She did the same for immigrants. Sean Feucht's response?

"We were all cringing in the room along with the President with how outrageous this was!

This is not a church and she is not a pastor. Time to ditch this tradition of attending this place during the inauguration.

Who's with me?"

You know this rhetoric is harmful. It is dangerous. Because it's not just rhetoric. It's not rhetorical. It has real-world impacts.

I have attended rallies here in Saskatoon regarding Bill 137. I have stood with teens who were in fear of being outed

to their parents. When there was a Parental Rights rally to support the bill, I was at the anti-protest. It was meant to be a peaceful protest in response to the bill's advocates and supporters. Instead, the supporters of the bill got in our faces, were belligerent, and were behaving, frankly, like spoiled children. One teen told of the trauma they'd endured and the fear they had for their physical and mental safety, and there were adults blatantly mocking them. Pulling faces, shouting "Boo hoo!", and acting like it was their own lives at stake and not the lives of queer kids and young adults.

We know that hate speech begets hateful actions. Speech is not just speech. Hitler was was an orator. Did he actually gas anyone? Put a bullet in a Jewish person's head? No. He enabled other people to. He told them to. He made certain segments of the population - not just Jewish people - "others". And he put the systems in place and let the people who followed his words do his work. He didn't need to actual kill anyone himself in order to commit multiple genocides.

Feucht doesn't plan to actually commit physical violence in Saskatoon. He doesn't need to. All he needs to do to get violence happening long-term is have a concert. Spread his hate. Spread his vision of Christianity, which is in direct opposition to what Jesus actually stood for. Then Feucht and his entourage can pack up, leave town, and let the hatred and violent rhetoric fester within the hearts and minds of attendees. And then they can commit the violence instead.

Rhetoric like this is never rhetorical. It's violence at arms length.

We cannot call ourselves a safe city and allow this event to happen. We are either safe or we aren't. What message are we sending to the queer/immigrant/non-white-nationalist people in our city if we say that this guy deserves a microphone just so that his feelings about "freedom of speech" don't get hurt?

It's true that he has indicated his litigious intent against cities/venues that cancel his concert. But he has forgotten that Canada is not in the United States. Freedom of speech is not something we have. Nobody has to grant him permits just because he wants them. And permits can be rescinded.

There is also the idea that freedom of speech means freedom consequences of that speech. Which it doesn't. Not even in places that have it. He can say what he wants. He already has. And we can react to it. By not letting him perform here. We're not telling him he can't say hateful things. We're just telling him he can't say them here. He can go to Albuquerque or Brisbane or Dublin or wherever (if they want him) and say it there. It's still abhorrent, but we're not stopping that. We're not stopping him from saying it online from his home. He can say whatever he wants. But he can't expect everyone else to tolerate it.

One final thing. Protecting his rights of hateful people out of fear that we won't have our rights protected when another municipal government is in power (as you alluded to at the protest) is, well, acting out of fear and vain hope that the bully will stop being a bully when they're placated. I've never known someone to become a pacifist because they beat the tar out of someone. The downtrodden don't win fights by licking the boots that are treading on them.

Please. Revoke the permit. Cancel this concert. It's the right thing to do.

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