



**City of Hamilton**  
**LGBTQ ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA**

**Meeting #:** 21-005  
**Date:** May 18, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall  
All electronic meetings can be viewed at:  
City's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Pauline Kajiura, Project Manager-Community Inclusion & Equity (905) 546-2424 ext. 2567

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
Roll Call	
<b>2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (V. NIKOLSKAYA)</b>	
<b>3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	
(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)	
<b>4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>5</b>
Minutes - April 20, 2021	
<b>6. DELEGATION REQUESTS</b>	<b>13</b>
Scarlett Gillespie Requests to speak as a Delegate Regarding Item 9.4, Hamilton Police Service Officer Charged with Assault of Trans Woman.	
<b>7. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS</b>	
Scarlett Gillespie to Delegate Regarding Item 9.4, Hamilton Police Service Officer Charged with Assault of Trans Woman.	

## 8. REGULAR BUSINESS

- 8.1. Motion to Rescind Drafting Correspondence to the Hamilton Police Service regarding their Delegation at the March Meeting and Subsequent Correspondence
- 8.2. Motion to Approve the Summary of Discussions from the Committee's April 20, 2021 Meeting (See attached summary) 15
- 8.3. Motion to Approve the Time and Date Suggested for the All Advisory Committee Event as September 27, 2021 at 4:00PM
- 8.4. Motion to Approve Sending C. Kroetsch (Chair) and V. Nikolskaya (Vice Chair) to Represent the Committee at the All Advisory Committee Event
- 8.5. Motion to Approve Leave of Absence for T. Wallis (C. Kroetsch)
- 8.6. Motion to Recommend the Recognition of Pride in the City of Hamilton (See attached survey results) 21
- 8.7. Motion to Delegate to the May 20, 2021 Audit, Finance and Administration Committee Regarding the Committee's December 2020 Citizen Committee Report about Accessible Captioning
- 8.8. Motion to Delegate to the May 20, 2021 Audit, Finance and Administration Committee regarding the Committee's May 2021 Citizen Committee Report about the Recognition of Pride in the City of Hamilton

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 9.1. Update from Working Groups (C. Kroetsch, V. Nikolskaya)
- 9.2. Update on Outstanding Citizen Committee Reports (C. Kroetsch, P. Kajjura)
- 9.3. Ombudsman of Ontario's Recommendations Regarding the Committee's October 2020 Meeting 85
- 9.4. Hamilton Police Service Officer Charged with Assault of Trans Woman
- 9.5. Changing the Standing Committee to which the LGBTQ Advisory Committee Reports (Outstanding Business List)
- 9.6. Outstanding Business List Items
  - 9.6.a. Changing the Name of the Committee

- 9.6.b. Reviewing and Updating the Committee's Mandate, Terms of Reference and Pamphlet
- 9.6.c. Rescheduling, Choosing a Location for, and Inviting Facilitators to a Committee Training and Planning Day
- 9.6.d. Changing the Food for Committee Meetings

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 10.1. Motion to Approve a Process to Recommend Changing the Name of the Committee
- 10.2. Motion to Approve a Process for Reviewing and Updating the Committee's Mandate, Terms of Reference, and Pamphlet
- 10.3. Motion to Recommend Changing the Standing Committee to which the Committee Reports

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**





# Hamilton

## MINUTES

### **LGBTQ Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Webex

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**Present:** James Diemert, Freja Gray, Cameron Kroetsch (Chair), Violetta Nikolskaya (Vice Chair), Councillor Maureen Wilson (City Council Appointee)

**Regrets:** Kyle Weitz, Terri Wallis

**Absent:** Autumn Getty, Lisa-Marie Johnston, Jake Maurice

**Staff:** Pauline Kajiura (Staff Liaison)

**Guests:** Mikhaila Bernales (BSW Placement Student, City of Hamilton), Jennifer Hohol (Senior Project Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton), Grace Mater (Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton)

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### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

C. Kroetsch took roll call.

### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

V. Nikolskaya provided a Land Acknowledgement.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

**(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the Agenda for today's meeting as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declarations of Interest**

None

**5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the minutes from its March 16, 2021 meeting as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**6. Communications**

**6.1 Email from Jas Dhillon, Community Relations Coordinator, Hamilton Police Service**

**(F. Gray / J. Diemert)**

That the correspondence be received.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Summary of Email from Staff regarding Options for Responding to the Hamilton Police Service's Delegation at the March Meeting and Subsequent Correspondence**

**(F. Gray / J. Diemert)**

That the correspondence be received.

**CARRIED**

**7. Delegation Requests**

**Jennifer Hohol, Senior Project Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton and Grace Mater, Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton regarding Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, for today's meeting**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That the delegation request be approved for today's meeting of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and that it be added as Item 9.

**CARRIED**

**8. Consent Items**

None

**9. Public Hearings / Delegations**

**Jennifer Hohol, Senior Project Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton and Grace Mater, Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton regarding Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**

**(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the delegation be received.

**CARRIED**

The delegates presented an overview of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and asked for feedback from Committee members on their presentation.

**10. Staff Presentations**

None

**11. Regular Business**

**11.1 Motion to Receive a Summary of Discussions with Delegates from the Committee's March 16, 2021 Meeting (see attachment)**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That a summary of discussions with delegates from the Committee's March 16, 2021 meeting be received.

**CARRIED**

**11.2 Motion to Draft Correspondence to the Hamilton Police Service regarding their Delegation at the March Meeting and Subsequent Correspondence**

**(C. Kroetsch / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee draft correspondence regarding the delegation from the Hamilton Police Service to its March meeting to be approved at its May meeting.

**CARRIED**

**11.3 Motion to Approve a Community Survey, and the Related Process for Distribution of a Survey, regarding the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony and Pride Month Celebration (see attached Draft Community Survey)**



**(C. Kroetsch / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee approve the Draft Community Survey.

**CARRIED**

**11.4 Motion to Recommend a Community Survey, and the Related Process for Distribution of a Survey, regarding the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony and Pride Month Celebration (see attached Draft Citizen Committee Report)**

**(C. Kroetsch / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee recommend a Community Survey, and the related process for distributions of a survey, regarding the Pride flag raising ceremony and Pride month celebration, as outlined in the Draft Citizen Committee Report with the addition that the survey be put up through Engage Hamilton on April 29, close on May 13, and that the results be disseminated to the Committee no later than May 14.

**CARRIED**

**11.5 Motion to Recommend a Process for Permitting Advisory Committee Members to Delegate to Citizen Committee Reports (see attached Draft Citizen Committee Report)**

**(C. Kroetsch / J. Diemert)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee recommend a process for permitting Advisory Committee members to delegate to Citizen Committee Report as outlined in the attached Draft

Citizen Committee Report.

**CARRIED**

**11.6 Motion to Resubmit Correspondence to City Council regarding Sidewalk Snow Clearing (not on the Agenda)**

**(J. Diemert / V. Nikolskaya)**

That the LGBTQ Advisory Committee resubmit to City Council the correspondence it had submitted to City Council's December 18, 2020, regarding sidewalk snow clearing, in time for City Council's April 28, 2021 meeting, where the issue will be debated again.

**CARRIED**

**12. Discussion Items**

**12.1 Updates from Working Groups (C. Kroetsch, V. Nikolskaya)**

No discussion

**12.2 Update on recruitment process (P. Kajiura)**

Interviews took place in April. Appointments will be announced following the City Council meeting on April 28.

**12.3 Update on previously submitted Citizen Committee Reports (P. Kajiura)**

- All Advisory Committee event - It has been approved by City Council and Staff Liaisons have been meeting about it; motion to come forward at the Committee's next meeting.

- Accessible Captioning - The Committee's recommendation was amended at City Council on February 24, 2021 and it is scheduled to come back to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee (date to be determined).

**13. General Information / Announcements**

None

**14. Adjournment**

**(V. Nikolskaya / J. Diemert)**

That, there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 PM.

**CARRIED**



-----Original Message-----

From: [no-reply@hamilton.ca](mailto:no-reply@hamilton.ca) <[no-reply@hamilton.ca](mailto:no-reply@hamilton.ca)>

Sent: May 15, 2021 11:46 AM

To: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

Subject: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form

Submitted on Saturday, May 15, 2021 - 11:45am Submitted by anonymous user:  
162.158.126.142 Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Other Advisory/Sub-Committee

Specify which Advisory/Sub-Committee: LGBTQ Advisory Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Scarlett Gillespie

Name of Organization:

Contact Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request:

I request to speak as a delegate to item 7.4

"Hamilton Police Service Officer Charged with Assault of Trans Woman."

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/node/286/submission/502161>



## Summary of Discussions from the Committee's April 20, 2021 Meeting

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### 6.1 Email from Jas Dhillon, Community Relations Coordinator, Hamilton Police Service

- Members stated that they were unclear if the requests fall under the mandate of the Committee (i.e. advising the Hamilton Police Service on how to establish their own advisory committee may not fall under our mandate).
- The Committee is, however, able to make a recommendation to City Council but the Committee is not sure if it's even within the City of Hamilton's purview to make a recommendation to the Hamilton Police Service about how to set up their own advisory committee.
- The issue of whether or not an Advisory Committee is permitted to directly work with the Hamilton Police Service, or the Hamilton Police Services Board, remains unclear in light of the complaint filed against the LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair alleging that this conduct may be inappropriate. The Advisory Committee Handbook has not been updated to make this clear and there has been no decision from the office of the City Clerk on this matter.

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### 6.2 Summary of Email from Staff regarding Options for Responding to the Hamilton Police Service's Delegation at the March Meeting and Subsequent Correspondence

- There are options to respond to the Hamilton Police Service (see the attachment on the Agenda).
- Members were neither in agreement to have it as a standing item on the Committee's Agenda nor to set up a specific Working Group for a number of reasons including requiring the constant presence of police and police-related topics as part of these meetings. Some members suggested that if the Hamilton Police Service need advice from members of Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities that they figure out how to get that

advice but that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee was not in a position to provide that advice (see a clear list of reasons for this below).

- There was a fair amount of hesitancy around sending correspondence because, ultimately, that correspondence would have to go first to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee and then to City Council before it could be sent. This is a months-long process that may ultimately result in the correspondence being changed or amended by either of these bodies.
- Members are concerned that this process is too laborious and that the office of the City Clerk has not provided clarity about whether or not the City is even able to provide advice on this front to the Hamilton Police Service. It is not clear what the relationship is between Advisory Committees, the Hamilton Police Service, the Hamilton Police Service Board, and City Council. Until such time as the City is willing to clarify these relationships, members don't feel comfortable participating in this process. Specifically, the discomfort comes around an Integrity Commissioner complaint that alleges, in its final report, that it may be inappropriate for Advisory Committees to interact in this way. The Integrity Commissioner made both findings and recommendations that have not been addressed by the City. As such, the Advisory Committee Handbook has not been updated to reflect any additional clarity around these matters. The Advisory Committee will wait for clarity from the City before proceeding.
- Members expressed confusion as to why the Hamilton Police Service did not first discuss their delegation request with staff before submitting their original email. Our only option, under the circumstances, was to invite the Hamilton Police Service to provide a delegation to our Committee, knowing that the outcome and the conversation would be subject to the rules outlined in the City of Hamilton's Procedural By-law and the Advisory Committee Handbook.
- Ultimately, members of the Committee did not have confidence in the advice given to them by email from the office of the City Clerk because, as has been the practice in the past, that advice may be overruled by City Council in their pursuit of a complaint to the Integrity Commissioner. In the most recent instance, and the only one we're aware of ever having occurred, the City Clerk herself gave us advice. We followed the advice



given to us. City Council chose to ignore that advice, or was unaware of it, and filed a complaint against the Chair of our Committee with the Integrity Commissioner.

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**9.2 Jennifer Hohol, Senior Project Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton and Grace Mater, Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development, City of Hamilton regarding Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**

- Seeing the list of the organizations and institutions that make up the advisory panel, a member asked if the advisory panel was still actively accepting members? If still actively doing so, is the membership still growing? The member remarked that youth and seniors were missing from the panel.
- A member remarked that while the Province may be prescriptive about who must be on the committee, it did not strictly limit who could be on it. on who should be part of the advisory committee, but what is needed is a sustainable governance structure, could involve smaller teams working in priority areas. Moving forward, would like to engage in broader communities to get them involved in the decision making
- Member asked what the outcome would look like? Will it be a report? Guidelines that are enforceable? Who is responsible for delivering these results?
- Delegate stated that membership on the committee was provincially mandated in terms of the broad type of person who sits at the table. Also stated that they would be continuing to gather input and feedback from a number of community stakeholders, even if they weren't included on the panel itself. Service providers have been part of the conversation and have been checking in based on their capacity to engage during the pandemic and given the volume of work that they're experiencing.
- A member asked to what extent is the hate prevention and mitigation process woven into the community safety and well-being plan? The delegate replied that there is a clear link between that work and this work and that there are strong links between staff supporting both areas to

ensure that there is not a duplication of efforts. That being said, the delegate suggested that this plan, in and of itself, could not specifically address all of the planned outcomes from the hate prevention and mitigation process.

- Members concurred that it would be best if organizations specifically representing Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities were part of the committee / panel. At present, based on the list shown during the meeting, there were not any such organizations. Being that the Committee's mandate is focused on representing these groups, members felt it was important that they were represented.

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## **11.2 Motion to Draft Correspondence to the Hamilton Police Service regarding their Delegation at the March Meeting and Subsequent Correspondence**

- See comments under items 6.1 and 6.2 above as similar comments were made during this discussion
- Members noted that there was a request that the Committee provide a list of key qualifications and experiences that facilitators must have. Members expressed that Committee could not provide "must haves".
- Members encouraged the Hamilton Police Service to reach out to organizations representing Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities in Hamilton, including Pride Hamilton, to gather feedback about how best to proceed.
- Members stated that any correspondence should include a thank you for the delegation made and point out that it was good to have started this public conversation for the first time since Pride 2019 (and likely the first time in public since amalgamation in 2001).
- A member stated that it was not clear to them what they could do outside of a Committee meeting in order to engage in a dialogue with police and that both the Hamilton Police Services Board and City Council have made it nearly impossible for the Committee to engage in this conversation. In February 2020, the Committee Chair went to the Hamilton Police Services

Board to read out the Committee's correspondence, at the Committee's request. After having read out the correspondence, it was received and the Chair was dismissed from the meeting. While this matter remains one of contention, and a complaint filed by City Council, it was an opportunity for police to open a dialogue with the Committee. As the Hamilton Police Services Board is the governing body for the Hamilton Police Service, and included representation from the Hamilton Police Service (including Chief Eric Girt and Deputy Chief Frank Bergen, the latter who appeared before us in March 2021), it is unclear why there was no offer of dialogue in February 2020. In fact, the Mayor, and the Chair of the Hamilton Police Services Board, went to an Audit, Finance and Administration Committee meeting, about a week later, to complain that the Committee had made the delegation in the first place. It cannot be up to an Advisory Committee to sort out this obviously complex problem that has been created by the Hamilton Police Services Board, City Council, and City of Hamilton staff. Staff and City Council need to come up with a solution and advise all Advisory Committees as to how they are permitted to proceed (through an update to the Advisory Committee Handbook and associated training).

- The Committee feels that it is not able to do anything else at this time.



# Summary Report

29 April 2021 - 13 May 2021

# Engage Hamilton

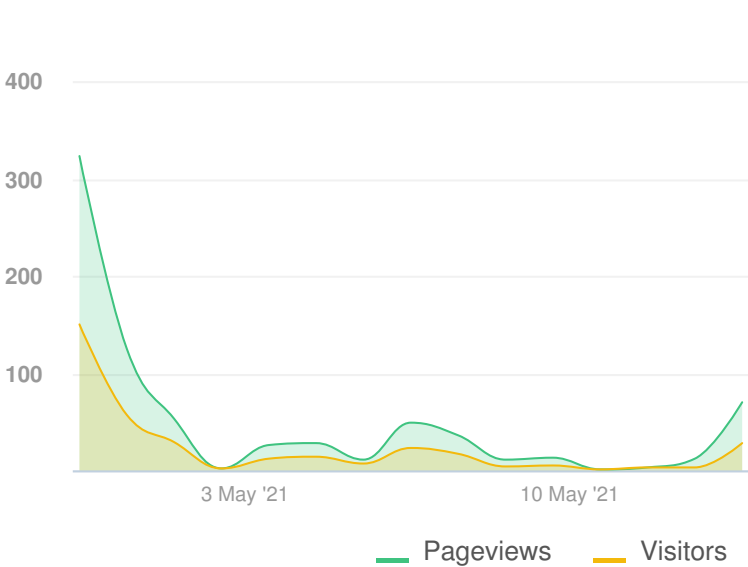
PROJECTS SELECTED: 1

Pride Recognition in Our City

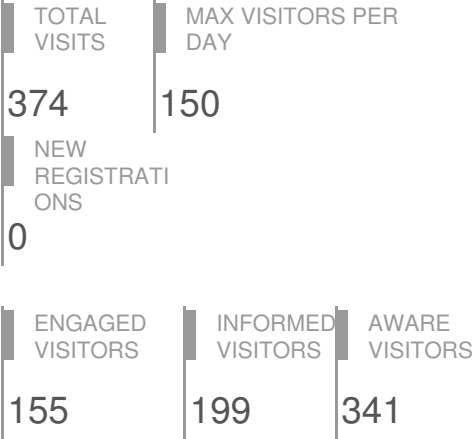
FULL LIST AT THE END OF THE REPORT



## Visitors Summary



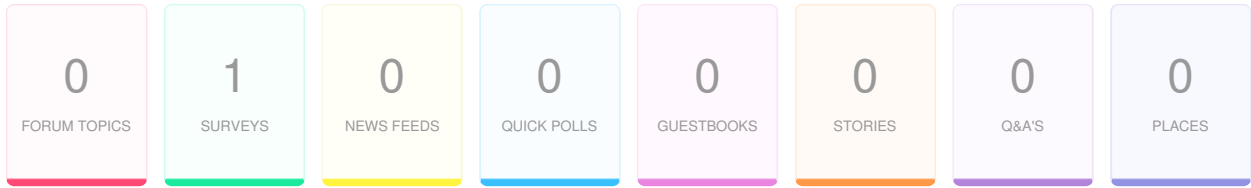
## Highlights



# PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>155 ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS</b>			(%)
<b>INFORMED</b>	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	
<b>AWARE</b>	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
	Participated in Surveys	10	0	145
	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
	Participated in Quick Polls	0	0	0
	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
	Asked Questions	0	0	0
	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
	Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0
	<i>* A single engaged participant can perform multiple actions</i>			<i>* Calculated as a percentage of total visits to the Project</i>
<b>Pride Recognition in Our City</b> <b>155 (45.5%)</b>				
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>199 INFORMED PARTICIPANTS</b>			(%)
<b>INFORMED</b>	Participants			
<b>AWARE</b>	Viewed a video	0		
	Viewed a photo	0		
	Downloaded a document	0		
	Visited the Key Dates page	1		
	Visited an FAQ list Page	0		
	Visited Instagram Page	0		
	Visited Multiple Project Pages	45		
	Contributed to a tool (engaged)	155		
	<i>* A single informed participant can perform multiple actions</i>			<i>* Calculated as a percentage of total visits to the Project</i>
<b>Pride Recognition in Our City</b> <b>199 (58.4%)</b>				
<b>ENGAGED</b>	<b>341 AWARE PARTICIPANTS</b>			
<b>INFORMED</b>	Participants			
<b>AWARE</b>	Visited at least one Page	341		
	<i>* Aware user could have also performed an Informed or Engaged Action</i>			<i>* Total list of unique visitors to the project</i>
<b>Pride Recognition in Our City</b> <b>341</b>				

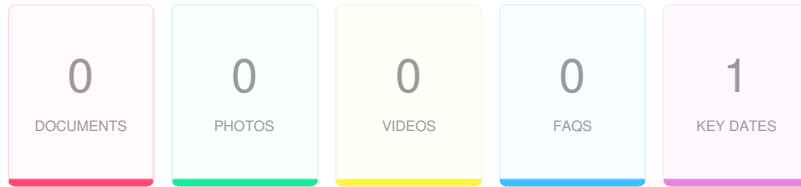
## ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



SURVEYS SUMMARY	
1	Surveys
155	Contributors
160	Submissions

TOP 3 SURVEYS BASED ON CONTRIBUTORS
<p>155</p> <p>Contributors to</p> <p>Commemorating Pride Survey</p>

## INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



KEY DATES	
1	Key Dates
1	Visitors
1	Views

TOP 3 KEY DATES BASED ON VIEWS
<p>1 Views</p> <p>Pride Recognition in Our City</p>



## TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	125
t.co	45
l.facebook.com	25
android-app	8
www.google.com	6
www.hamilton.ca	5
l.instagram.com	3
lm.facebook.com	2
www.linkedin.com	2
mail.google.com	1
www.facebook.com	1
www.google.ca	1
www.instagram.com	1
www.snapchat.com	1
l.messenger.com	1

## SELECTED PROJECTS - FULL LIST

PROJECT TITLE	AWARE	INFORMED	ENGAGED
Pride Recognition in Our City	341	199	155

# Commemorating Pride Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

29 April 2021 - 13 May 2021

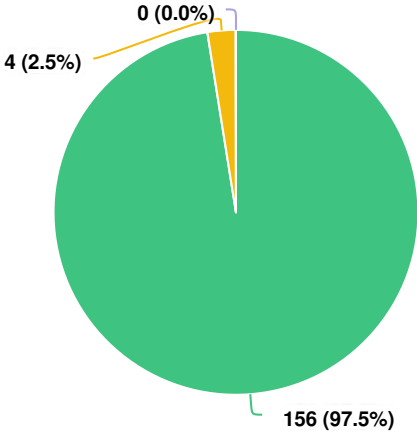
### **PROJECT NAME:**

Pride Recognition in Our City



SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Do you live, work or play in Hamilton? Answer yes if any of these apply to you

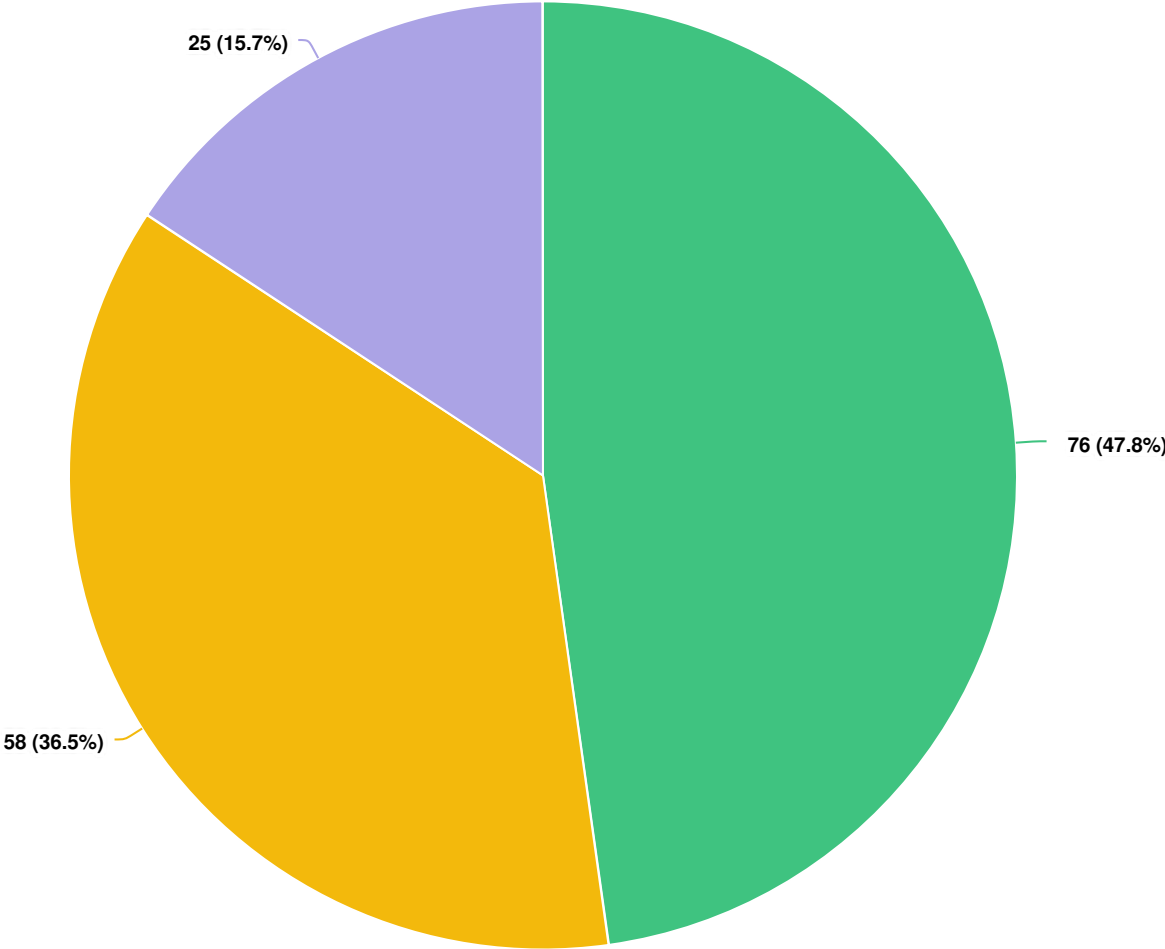


**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Optional question (160 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q2** Have you ever attended an event put on by the City of Hamilton that recognized Pride?



**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Optional question (159 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

### Q3 | If yes, what was your experience like?

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:14 AM

It was alright. It seemed more performative than substantive but I appreciated the often important conversations started / held by members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. I didn't think that many of the comments made by politicians or others not part of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities were particularly impactful, with a couple of exceptions. I didn't think the flag raising portion was particularly significant, and in light of all that has happened in our City since 2019, I don't think it's necessary.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

A pleasant picnic vibe but hardly like PRIDE, ya know?

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:35 AM

Maybe me feel like I lived in a city that carried about the kind of person I was, that was safe to be an OUT person in

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

I enjoy the yearly flag raising.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

Under whelming, i go to toronto normally

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:37 AM

Most yrs great

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:41 AM

Many Prides where a great experience until the last when police failed miserably and tagetted pride defenders.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:47 AM

Chaotic, and scoured by hateful protesters, unprotected by police.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:47 AM

It was okay. Didn't like seeing protesters there and thought there could have been more activities and

	stuff to do, but it was alright.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:41 AM	All experiences have always been positive up until 2019. That was horrible. Both sides clashed after acting immaturely.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:44 AM	I proudly supported our Safe Space students & have no complaints
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:53 AM	Affirming
Anonymous 4/29/2021 11:48 AM	Flag raising a have been boring experiences in the past. Not really recognizing as much of the community as it should.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 11:53 AM	I attended flag raising ceremonies in the past and had a positive experience.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 11:53 AM	Chaotic
Anonymous 4/29/2021 11:56 AM	It has been several years since I attended any city functions recognizing Pride because in recent years, efforts have seemed disingenuous given the city's reaction to hate groups gathering on their properties.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 12:37 PM	It was different than my experience at Toronto pride but I enjoyed the community aspect of it.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 02:46 PM	The city of Hamilton has a terrible record of performative and downright abusive behavior when it comes to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including events supported by the city.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:13 PM	My first PRIDE was 2018 and I had a good time save for the preachers who started yelling at me and getting in my face. I did not attend any other after because I didn't want to get into any confrontations with those



Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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	preachers who are very hostile and aggressive.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:19 PM	it was nice
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:40 PM	It was not bad except I don't like seeing hate groups or anti lgbt groups near pride . I think a lot of the city population lack awareness hence why hamilton is the highest place for hate crimes . I know a handful of LGBTQ's people who get harassed or verbally attacked or sometimes physically in the streets
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:20 PM	Excellent— welcoming and celebratory space.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:24 PM	Excellent in the days of marches down to the waterfront and Dundurn park.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:48 PM	overwhelming
Anonymous 4/29/2021 06:37 PM	Great
Anonymous 4/29/2021 06:40 PM	Positive and affirming.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:06 PM	It's always positive to be with my community. I could do without the homophobic attacks and the police shirking they're responsibilities.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:29 PM	It was fine. Focused mainly on bringing attention to politicians supporting our community instead of our actual community
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:43 PM	I was at the 2018 Pride that was attacked by alt-right bigots, and I was very grateful that the workers unions who stood in solidarity with us blocked them from the park. Still, it was frustrating to see the police do nothing. In 2019 I didn't go to the

daytime celebrations, only the 'afterparty' out of fear of the situation escalating a year later, and it did. I was sick to my stomach seeing the OPP do nothing to protect Pride attendees (and in fact arrest Pride protesters instead of the people attacking them). I moved here from Glasgow in 2018 and I'm used to Pride events where police, though also not perfect, kept violent mobs out of Pride spaces, and where LGBTQ+ individuals could strike in self-defense without worrying about getting arrested. In Hamilton, I feel it's a much more unsafe place to celebrate Pride. The virtual Pride of 2020 was safer than the last two years before it, and that's a sad state of affairs.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:15 PM

I enjoy that Hamilton formerly recognizes our marginalized community. While we still have room to improve, the Street markings and flag raising are important elements in recognizing us as part of the community. I do not however feel the City needs to organize an event as they don't organize events for other groups. I want to be treated like all communities in this city. That is equity. I want my lgbtq community to be able to organize its own event under the same practices as other community events. I want to enjoy the community based pride event just as others in the community would enjoy supercrawl.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:21 PM

It was concerning due to protestors that had attended but Hamilton Pride had ensured our safety. There was some police presence which was not preferred but I understand it was due to the protestors.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:51 PM

The last two years have been terrible, particularly with the HPS

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	response to bigots who crashed the Pride celebration. The city wasted money on an independent review when instead they could have listened to the LGBTQ2S+ community in Hamilton.
Anonymous 4/30/2021 02:25 PM	pretty nice. yelled at some protestors. saw hatsune miku. overall, fun, but unsafe as some people got physically attacked by protestors
Anonymous 4/30/2021 03:54 PM	I have attended in the past. It was fun inclusive and a pleasant afternoon spent. I will not attend after the last fiasco. The police response was a disgrace. I would not feel safe.
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:03 PM	I have thoroughly enjoyed the festive-ness of pride celebrations in Hamilton, but felt potentially at risk a few years ago when a large group of protesters attended the event.
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:05 PM	Overall the experience was good, although instances of protests by those who were against pride got out of control and caused an uneasy atmosphere.
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:10 PM	Mostly positive
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:20 PM	Awesome
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:21 PM	Pride 2018 - I think it was - I helped man a booth of a queer-affirming charity. Although it was super hot, we got to interact with many lovely people. It was a good day.
Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:51 PM	I loved pride a few years ago, I did not attend the more recent one with the clash with the proud boys, but I would recommend less tolerance towards terrorist groups at future pride related events
Anonymous	Good times, nice activities lots to see

Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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4/30/2021 07:10 PM

and do

Anonymous

5/01/2021 01:55 PM

Always pleasant

Anonymous

5/03/2021 11:10 AM

It was mixed--it felt like a very commercial carnival with some musical acts.

Anonymous

5/04/2021 01:35 PM

It's been too long to remember lol

Anonymous

5/04/2021 07:03 PM

Good fun. Good sense of community.

Anonymous

5/04/2021 08:24 PM

It was ok.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:44 PM

Complicated but overall good.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:52 PM

Gage Park 2019 - not good

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:55 PM

Enjoy seeing community gathered and vendors

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:19 PM

Varied. I was at many prides before the 2019 incident and where i am excited to go to another when it is safe again, it is clear the city does not support pride or what it stands for, seeing as they sided with violent biggots over those who were attacked. I no longer trust my city to care for my welfare as a transgender person.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:20 PM

Well it was the 2018 pride event in gage park where the big fight was, so that part sucked and was sad to see people there protesting my existince but other than that, it was good :)

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:32 PM

Very positive. Well organized and enjoyable.

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

Anonymous

5/06/2021 04:43 PM

Good

Anonymous

5/06/2021 05:26 PM

The last year before covid was a lot of fighting with the yellow vests. It was generally an unsafe and unenjoyable environment.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 09:13 PM

I attended in 2019 and had a great time! I did not even know about the disturbance until after!

Anonymous

5/07/2021 10:27 AM

It felt very much like an infomercial for politican to talk about how much they do for our community

[REDACTED]

5/07/2021 02:23 PM

Unfortunately there was violence and hate targeted towards the participants. I was trying to introduce my young non binary child and their partner to the support and experience of pride. We had to leave because they were both afraid to stay. That made me so sad. I was ashamed of Hamilton

Anonymous

5/07/2021 07:59 PM

Enjoyable

Anonymous

5/09/2021 11:26 AM

The last one I attended was 2019, which, as we know, was a shitshow thanks to the city's complete unwillingness to eliminate the radical right-wing element from this city (& the police force). Pride itself was great :)

Anonymous

5/11/2021 03:08 PM

Very positive.

Anonymous

5/12/2021 08:00 AM

It was a lovely experience. The entertainment, food and vendors were excellent. The family friendly crowd made sure everyone was welcome.

Anonymous

5/13/2021 06:21 AM

It was superb

Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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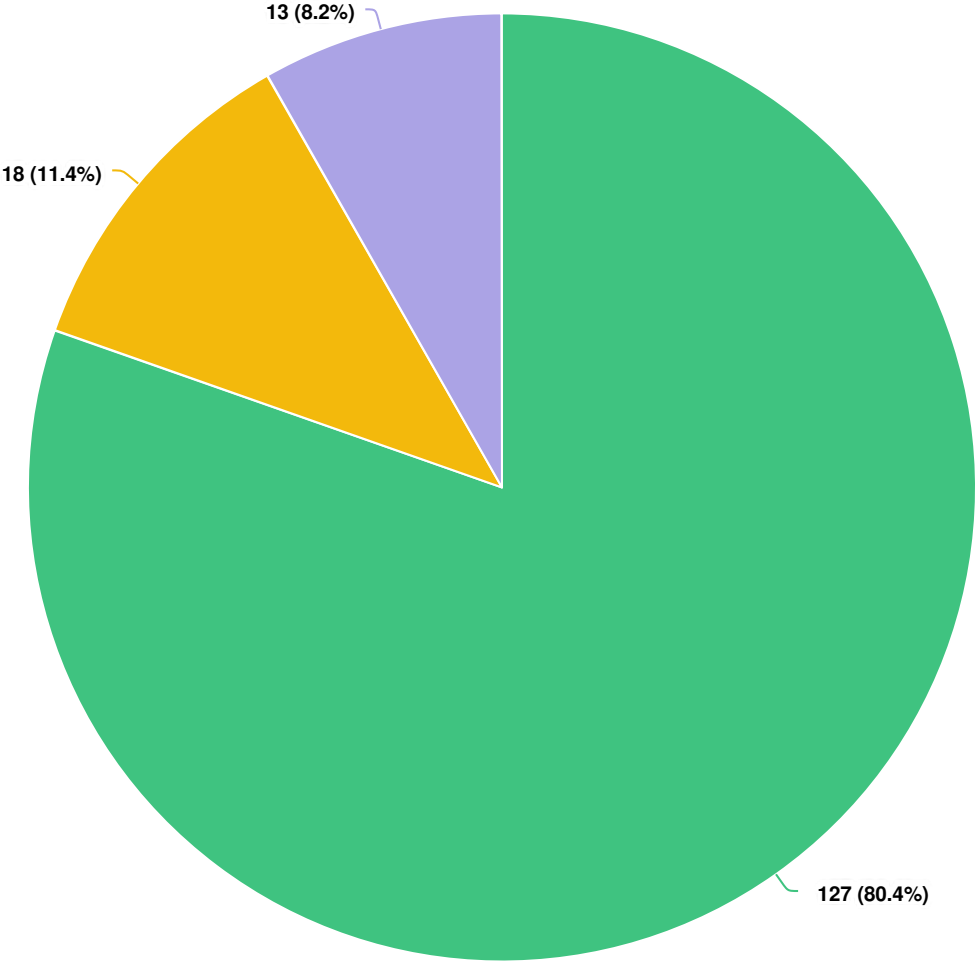
Anonymous Absolutely Amazing!!!  
5/13/2021 08:45 AM

Anonymous Rainy and a little disorganized but  
5/13/2021 09:41 AM nice

Anonymous Excellent  
5/13/2021 10:05 AM

**Optional question** (66 response(s), 94 skipped)  
**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q4 | Do you think that the City of Hamilton should plan an annual event to recognize Pride?**

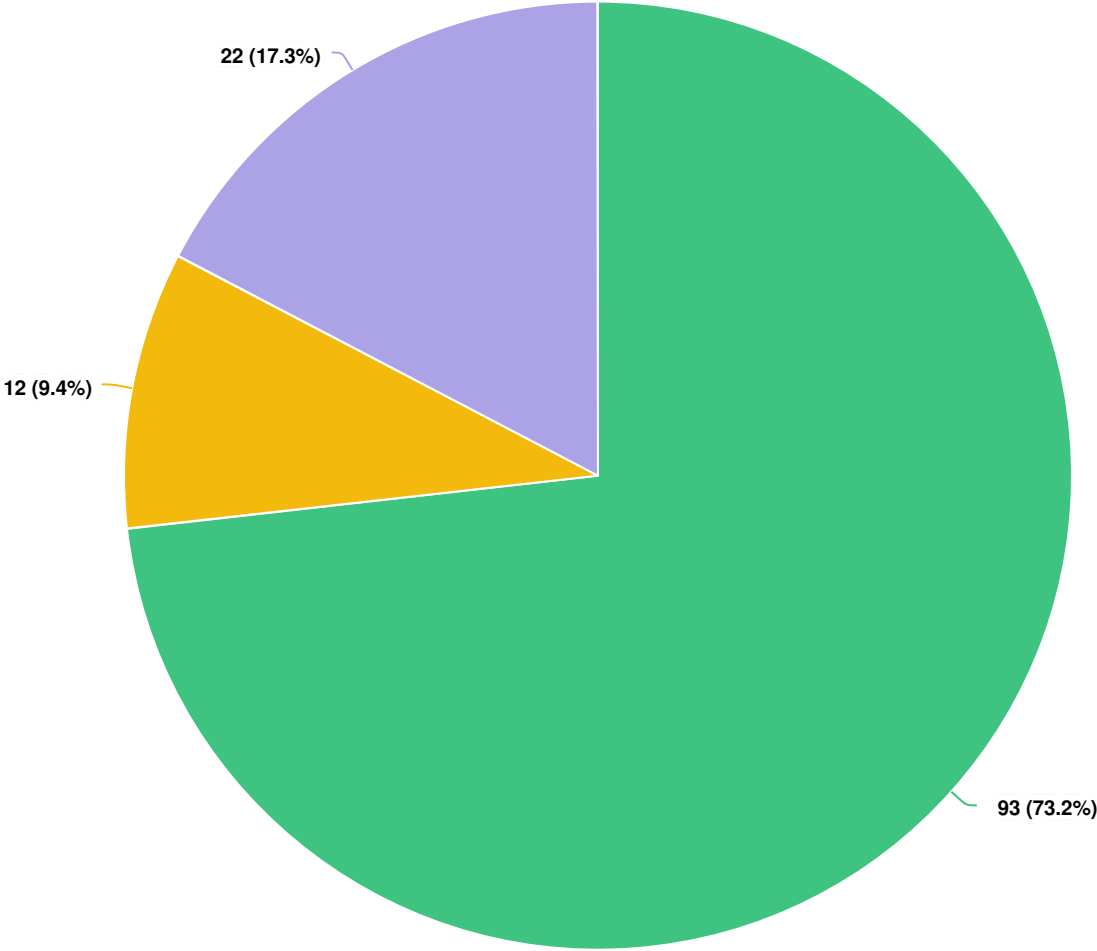


**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

*Optional question (158 response(s), 2 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q5 | If yes, do you think that the LGBTQ Advisory Committee should be responsible for planning the event?**



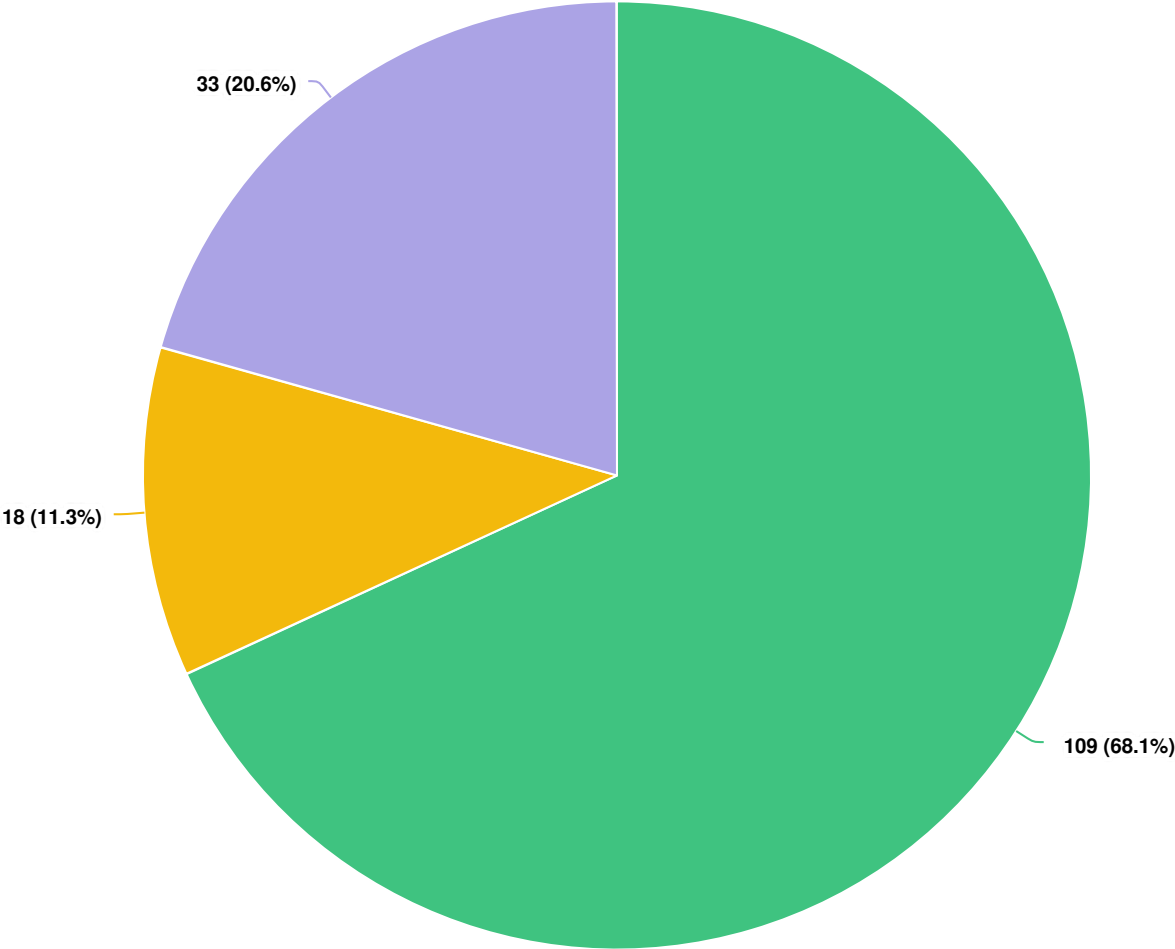
**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Optional question (127 response(s), 33 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q6** Do you think an event to recognize Pride should include a flag raising ceremony?



**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Optional question (160 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q7** Why or why not?

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:14 AM

I don't think it's necessary for it to be part of what the LGBTQ Advisory Committee does in recognizing Pride in Hamilton. The City's raising of the Pride flag is up to the City but there's a flag protocol that asks that a flag only be raised if a group asks for it to be done. It's not actually the prerogative of the City to do so in the absence of a request. I think that the Committee should take the recommendations from this survey into account when making its recommendations around any Pride recognition.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

We need a bigger flag with fireworks and dancers.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

To honour the Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ communities, and as a symbol of the City's commitment to making Hamilton a safer place for these communities. This can't be a standalone ceremony, and needs to be followed with listening to queer Hamiltonians and implementing strategies that consult us and listen to our concerns.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:35 AM

Regardless of how well the city manages to handle the issues of our community, that flag is an important symbol to the young and struggling people who live here. I grew up in a city without a flag, and it's an important recognition of belonging.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

It is important for the city to display the Pride flag to show that we are an inclusive and welcoming city.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

Our government doesn't respect us, their actions feel like a mockery until they do things to actually protect us

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 Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021
 

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Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:37 AM	If the community wants it otherwise no
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:41 AM	Not until all charges against Pride defwnders charges are dropped.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:44 AM	The only flags that should be flown are country province city.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:47 AM	It's a motion actively against those that want us to not have recognition.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:47 AM	Having the flag flying seems like an important symbol of inclusion and signals to folks that they are welcome and valued.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:06 AM	Represents the values and history of Pride, visible to all, flags are universal.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:06 AM	Yes. As a symbol of inclusivity.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:14 AM	Because that would be nice :)
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:41 AM	There should already be flags and/or symbols visible all the time so individuals know what place is safe and what isn't.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:44 AM	Visibility matters!!
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:53 AM	I think the city should commit to supporting 2S and LGBTQ+ communities everyday. The flash should fly all year, but only if the City is truly doing the work
Anonymous 4/29/2021 11:09 AM	City of Hamilton as a corporation and a system in power does a poor job supporting marginalized groups in general, and the queer community in particular. This feels like an unearned virtue signal without actual support or action behind it. Optics.

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 Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021
 

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Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:42 AM

Visibility matters and sends a message to the rest of Hamilton; that being said, the City should only raise a flag if they have the capacity to commit to substantive things that support and advance the lives of Hamiltonians identifying as 2SLGBTQ+ .

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:48 AM

The flag raising is an earned experience in recognizing the relationship between the LGBTQ+ community and the city. Although the city has taken some steps, it's not healed that relationship at this stage.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:53 AM

I understand the concerns and reservations of some of the members in the queer community in terms of token events without substantive action to actually protect and improve quality of life for members of the community. However, I also recognize how important important these types of events are for raising awareness of queer issues outside of our community and to how important it is for me as a member of the queer community to see my elected officials and leaders recognize Pride and the ongoing struggle for equality.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:56 AM

This should only happen at the discretion of the committee based on the city's actual efforts to engage and treat appropriately their queer citizens.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:01 PM

Pride Hamilton should be the organization coordinating with the City; as they were the organization directly involved with the incident. The advisory board are city appointed officials, who have no responsibility to the actual community; and seem to be representing their own self interests rather than the interests of the community.

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## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:37 PM

Gay and Trans flags. Both should be recognized

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:53 PM

There will be lots of flags at Pride.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 01:18 PM

Why not? As in, why not include a flag raising ceremony? If it is an important symbolism it should happen.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 01:30 PM

I think enough people have expressed that raising the flag isn't helpful for them. At this point, centering the discussion on whether or not to raise a flag feels like a waste of time and energy, given that so many people like me aren't even safely housed and/or don't feel safe going outside because of the police. I know the flag isn't specifically related to housing or policing--it's still hard to feel like it's that important when my people are suffering like this, and when so much time has already been spent on the issue of the flag already. If more people were more invested in it going up, I might feel differently.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 02:24 PM

As far as flag raising goes, there are still some very serious ongoing issues caused by the Hamilton Police that the city of Hamilton and especially Fred Eisenberger have either minimized, completely swept under the rug and/or outright gaslit Hamilton's queer community over. I think the current "leaders" should hang their heads in shame, and provide serious and permanent funding for Hamilton Pride and should allow the community full authority over those funds and how they are used. Furthermore, I think the City of Hamilton should provide Hamilton's queer community with a permanent community center, paid

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 Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021
 

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	for and maintained through City of Hamilton funding.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 02:46 PM	Until the city actually supports the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in action, then performative flag raising events are of no interest to me.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 02:50 PM	Corona
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:13 PM	Yes because it's important to recognize that we are citizens of this city like any other.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:13 PM	The Flag raising ceremony is a recognition of the LGTBQJA Community
Anonymous 4/29/2021 03:40 PM	Yes , Hamilton needs to adapt to change .
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:20 PM	Flags are important symbols of pride.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:24 PM	Because people and communities are fighting for it all over including Halton CDSB so we should not ever take the right to fly it for granted.
Anonymous 4/29/2021 04:48 PM	i think the flag is important to the community but it also represents performative allyship. This city is not a safe place for queer folk especially with the police
Anonymous 4/29/2021 05:19 PM	it is important to officially recognize the support
Anonymous 4/29/2021 05:56 PM	There was an issue before and I am not totally sure about what happened. However it raising of the flag, to me, represents solidarity and if the city does not demonstrate a commitment to improving life in Hamilton for the LGBTQ+ community, then it sort of loses it purpose.
Anonymous	I am not a member of this group

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## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

4/29/2021 05:59 PM

[REDACTED]

4/29/2021 06:10 PM

If the Pride committee is involved in the flag raising and it is part of the events organized by the Pride committee then I would support the flag raising. In order to have the flag raised, the City could commit to a certain diversity and inclusion standard that would make raising the flag appropriate.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 06:37 PM

If certain people have an agenda it shouldn't involve a pride flag. The flag represents all Two Spirit lgbtqai+ living in Hamilton . It needs to fly at City Hall. A few people that are against this should not speak for the majority.

[REDACTED]

4/29/2021 06:52 PM

Raising a flag can be performative without proven city commitment in creating safety and inclusion for LGBT2SQAI residents, and rejection of hate speech and condemnation by the municipal establishment, it's citizens and local law enforcement institutions. Pride flag raising should only happen at the behest and partnership of the local LGBT2SQAI organizations after they've measured the conditions in these areas regarding LGBT2SQAI residents.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 08:46 PM

It's a step in the right direction that provides visibility

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:06 PM

The current mayor and council do not deserve to have a Pride Flag Ceremony

[REDACTED]

4/29/2021 09:52 PM

Because it is important to make it publicly known that Hamilton celebrates Pride.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:11 PM

An important symbol of pride

Anonymous

4 & 5 depend each year on if the city

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

4/29/2021 10:29 PM

has been "walking the walk" to support our community. If they have not, these are empty symbols of support and shouldn't be allowed

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:41 PM

Raising the flag is an important symbol of visibility.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:43 PM

I'm normally not one for flags one way or another, but I understand the meaning they hold for other people. I can be proud to be trans and bi with or without a flag being raised. But it sends a message to all of Hamilton that Hamilton stands with the LGBTQ+ community. But it can't be an empty gesture, either -- the city of Hamilton has to do better when it comes to protecting Pride events in particular and creating safe LGBTQ+ spaces in particular. The OPP can no longer be allowed to stand by and refuse to help like petty school children.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 08:56 AM

Seeing the flag up in the city makes it feel like a welcoming place for the community.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:03 PM

If the queer community is interested in the city being involved, then it's okay. If we all don't want them involved because they're consistently violent towards us, that should be respected

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:15 PM

If others in the community can raise flags at City hall then we should be able to raise one for pride.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:21 PM

Yes, as there are many places that are taking away raising the flag (ie. in the Peel Region at schools) so I think it's important to recognize the significance of this

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:51 PM

The flag is an incredibly important symbol for the LGBTQ2S+ Community and I believe the symbol helps to signify residents in Hamilton



	who identify as such.
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 02:25 PM</p>	<p>it just doesnt really matter to me honestly.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:23 PM</p>	<p>Its performative and harmful, the city is not part of the LGBTQ2S+ community, it's a city. It would be far more meaningful and appropriate to invest in the LGBTQ2S+ community by redirecting power, privilege and resources for the community to leverage. The city should attend, support, provide space but not take up space. Intention is clear and we notice.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:39 PM</p>	<p>The flag is symbolic of acceptance and shares the values</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:44 PM</p>	<p>Flags and other affirming symbols are an important way that the City can help to make public spaces safer and more welcoming to queer people.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:03 PM</p>	<p>I think that a flag-raising ceremony could be a beautiful thing, were it conducted in a manner deemed appropriate by the LGBTQ* Advisory Committee. Conversely, such a ceremony conducted in the name of the city may serve at best to make city council look good, and at worst as a figuration of homonationalism.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:05 PM</p>	<p>It could be helpful to solidify the importance of voices in the LGBT+ community and that their presence is valued.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:10 PM</p>	<p>Visibility</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:14 PM</p>	<p>It seems a good way to kick off the event and it's nice to see our flags flying</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:20 PM</p>	<p>I think the raising of the flag is a symbol of what the community has</p>

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:21 PM

overcome.

Visibility is important to our community.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:35 PM

Flag-raising may be an 'empty and hollow gesture' as was said last year by Pride Hamilton, but by not raising it, nothing changes either. The City has an enormous way to go in actually proving that they respect the lives of the LGBTQ+ community, but this may as well start by proudly flying a pride flag at City Hall. It could be said that all flags are a hollow gesture, including that of the Canadian flag, it's a symbol and that is it. But symbols have power and should be respected as such. Fly the flag.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:51 PM

Because not everyone can or wants to attend the more party type events related to pride, flag raising is a more serious way of recognizing and validating the queer community

Anonymous

4/30/2021 06:08 PM

Unsure of its significance ceremonially but important for city to visually recognize the community.

Anonymous


4/30/2021 06:23 PM

It is particularly important in this era, one defined by polarization between individuals committed to inclusive values and those vehemently opposed, to have prominent visibility, as minorities. As a bisexual man, we are particularly ignored by both the anti-LGBTQ folks and the even sometimes our fellow LGBTQ communities - though trans people are by far the worst treated out of the LGBTQ communities by far, in this day and age.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 07:43 PM

I don't really care to see fancy ceremonies by the city just to put on a bit of a show. It doesn't provide substance. Pride events should be

	<p>community organized. Put the flag up, sure (should always be up). But no need to bother with theatrics. Recognize Pride by supporting the community events and inclusive policy making.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 11:29 PM</p>	<p>The only way a flag raising and other events can happen under the City for Pride is if the LGBT advisory committee and other lgbt community members lead the way.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 09:11 AM</p>	<p>It's a symbolic way for LGBTQ2S+ people to see themselves represented in annual ceremony.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 01:55 PM</p>	<p>For the recognition we still fight for</p>
<p> 5/01/2021 05:19 PM</p>	<p>In the interest of inclusion, the Pride flag should fly at all times.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 06:46 PM</p>	<p>Absolutely - city politicians have been homophobic for many years and have a responsibility to acknowledge publicly by a flag raising ceremony and the mayor speak along with other city elected officials inviting other levels of government.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 10:01 PM</p>	<p>Anyone who passes by the flag will know this is an inclusive city. Past wrongs in relationships with the city need to be put aside.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 10:15 PM</p>	<p>Raising the pride flag sends a clear and public message that Hamilton belongs to LGBTQ2S+ persons. This is a fact despite any flaws or failures of City Council and others in the community to hear and respond to the needs of the LGBTQ2S+ communities.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/03/2021 08:18 AM</p>	<p>I do feel that a pride planning event and an advisory committee are two different things. I would say it should be two different teams.</p>

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

Anonymous

5/03/2021 01:36 PM

I think having Hamilton's gov showing their support through a flag-raising ceremony would show that they are \*trying\* to make Hamilton a safer space.

Anonymous

5/03/2021 02:23 PM

I think it is important for all levels of government and all areas of life to be LGBTQ+ inclusive, including visibly so through the promotion of awareness and acceptance through events like Pride. However, I also strongly feel like this should be something that places want to do for reasons beyond it just being what is expected, politically beneficial, or as a distraction to what is really happening behind the scenes. So I want to say yes, the City should plan events, including a flag raising, but I don't know that it would be done for the right reasons, nor can I say that the city has done the work to earn the right to do so. Queer communities are not something to be used.


 5/04/2021 02:39 PM

As a UN sanctuary city, the city of the first black city councillor, we should stand resolute for 2SLGBTQ+, BIPOC, Trans and Women's safety and inclusion. With that said if we had a city Pride Flag raising ceremony planned by the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee this would a symbolic gesture of physical solidarity with city and community, which must go beyond that.


 5/04/2021 03:10 PM

Yes, because it can symbolize the cities support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Anonymous

5/04/2021 06:55 PM

Because the City of Hamilton has been so openly homophobic and transphobic, they need to repair that legacy.

Anonymous

5/04/2021 07:03 PM

it's a symbol of inclusivity that ought to be the goal of the city

Anonymous

5/04/2021 08:24 PM

Annoyed with the city for not funding programs, not maintaining crosswalk, not doing very much at all except insisting to raise a flag for optics.



5/05/2021 12:45 PM

I think that the LGBTQ advisory committee should have SOLE POWER over CITY HALL pride events, including raising a flag and putting on events at city hall during pride week, but they should not be responsible for planning all of the pride celebrations. The city should also fund third party pride events happening around the city during pride week/month.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 07:46 AM

Many places around the world fight to have LGBTQ people recognized. We can raise it here without fear of persecution and violence. Why wouldn't we? I'm sure people in truly oppressed countries would laugh at the term "lateral violence".

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:44 PM

Flying a flag related to a community or issue is one of the more visible symbolic ways the City of Hamilton reinforces its commitment to equity.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:52 PM

Just fly the flag - don't need a ceremony

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:55 PM

A Progress Pride Flag needs to be flying proudly every June in every city

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:19 PM

Pride is for the people oppressed, and for them to fly their colours and know they will not be diminished by a political agenda nor attacked by oppressors. There should be a raising ceremony, however those involved should be part of the community, and not using it as a promotional tool.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:20 PM

I don't personally have strong feelings on this one way or another,

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it could come across as posturing, or could amplify homophobic people's aggression if they feel strongly that the flag shouldn't be raised or something idk what they think tbh lol

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:32 PM

Visibility matters.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 04:43 PM

We do the same for other events so it makes sense to do it for a pride event

Anonymous

5/06/2021 05:26 PM

It shows respect

Anonymous

5/06/2021 05:36 PM

It is a show of support and respect for our community

Anonymous

5/06/2021 06:21 PM

I think if it is a raising on the Pride flag that would be a beacon to show the event is a safe space for all those who are part of the LGBTQ+ and 2 Spirit people.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 07:57 PM

The flag is an important part of our culture. It also stands as a symbol of recognition. It shows that the city recognizes that LGBTQ+ residents exist and we're heard. If the only reason to not fly the flag is to avoid conflict, then what kind of message is the city trying to send us?

Anonymous

5/06/2021 10:40 PM

It doesn't have to be a flag raising but some event (s) that aims to improve the stress between LGBT and council. Something else to heal wounds between the police and citizens of Hamilton.

Anonymous

5/07/2021 12:16 AM

Our cities needs to be proud of the contributions of so many of our Communities make to this city each and everyday. I feel now more then ever we need the city to recognize this.

Anonymous

5/07/2021 08:04 AM

Many events or occasions are recognized with a flag raising

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Anonymous

5/07/2021 10:27 AM

ceremony.

I think it should recognize the Trans, pride and Two Spirit flags and have them raised by our community, and it should be up for the whole month of June

 5/07/2021 02:23 PM

The flag has become a symbol not only of the community but of support for the community. With everything happening in Halton with the #raisetheflag initiative, this would be a very important moment.

 5/07/2021 03:11 PM

It depends on the City's evolving relationship with the LGBTQ+ community.

Anonymous

5/07/2021 07:59 PM

The flags flying at City Hall are important symbol.

Anonymous

5/08/2021 12:01 AM

Because that flag shows we are proud and deserve to take up space.

Anonymous

5/08/2021 09:45 PM

Because raising the flag raises awareness

Anonymous

5/09/2021 11:26 AM

I get that the city's "support" of pride is entirely performative. That said, I believe that the city has an obligation to celebrate pride and make it clear that the bigot terrorists have no place in our city on any day of the year. So, to whatever extent the city can be shifted away from performance toward true inclusion... The flag should fly.

Anonymous

5/09/2021 03:00 PM

The City of Hamilton needs to deal with homophobia and transphobia, particularly the violent policing of queer lives. Any celebration put on by the City of Hamilton before the hard work is done to repair the violence done towards our communities feels like pure optics. That being said, the City should give funds to community run queer initiatives if they really

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**Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021**


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	want to have a Pride event in the city. And for the love of God, don't raise those flags after 2SLGBTQ+ organizations and community members explicitly told you not to.
Anonymous 5/11/2021 03:08 PM	It's an important symbol of our communities and stands as a legacy, awareness and teaching opportunity.
Anonymous 5/12/2021 08:00 AM	I hesitate because I know the city is raising the flag as a gesture and it is not founded in real actions. However it needs to be visible. The flag signifies a lot for many and even if there are those at city hall that don't believe in it or it's meaning, there are many who feel that seeing it flying at city hall is necessary for the community to be seen and heard.
Anonymous 5/13/2021 06:21 AM	It is our identification
Anonymous 5/13/2021 07:38 AM	Anything to boost visibility for those struggling with who they are
Anonymous 5/13/2021 08:45 AM	Support those who need it, love is love, express it.
Anonymous 5/13/2021 10:05 AM	Anything to make our community more visible
Anonymous 5/13/2021 11:00 AM	I want the city to represent people like me
Anonymous 5/13/2021 12:05 PM	I want to feel seen and accepted by my city, even if their actions in the past have been imperfect
Anonymous 5/13/2021 12:28 PM	We're here and we're queer
Anonymous 5/13/2021 02:07 PM	To show solidarity between the city and our community

**Optional question** (120 response(s), 40 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question



**Q8 | What other things do you think might be important as part of an event to recognize Pride?**

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:14 AM

Bringing the community together, whether virtually or in person, to talk about the issues facing members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in Hamilton.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

Not getting beat-up by white nationalists and psychopaths while the cops watch.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

Defunding the HPS, who routinely side with white supremacists, homophobes, and transphobes and consistently make our city less safe for so many (not to mention that the institution of policing is at its roots racist and white supremacist). With that said, police have no place at pride and should not be present.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:35 AM

Hearing from marginalized voices in the community

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

Highlighting queer activists and community leaders during the event.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:36 AM

A space to talk to city officials

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:37 AM

Making it clear it will be safe space. Adding a sensory or calm down area as there is a big crossover population of asd and gender diverse. But it can be too much at times.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:41 AM

Land acknowledgments and recognition of the failings of the City and its police when it comes to the LGBTQ2S+ and the BIPOC. And a commitment to correct transgressions.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:47 AM

It would be nice to have panels or workshops around LGBTQ+ issues. Pride shouldn't just be a rainbow

party, it is about educating the public on the history of oppression of our community. Also community-building social events to connect with other people in the community. Also arts-related events like film screenings, concerts, etc that share the work of LGBTQ+ artists. We should also ensure there is a land acknowledgement and conscious attempt to decolonize this event. And I don't believe it should have uniformed police involved.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:06 AM

Mayor must denounce systemic discrimination. Have speakers who are representative of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:06 AM

I think it's important for us to recognize, independently of the general queer community, people of marginalized groups (marginalized, even, within the community), such as trans, BIPOC, and disabled people

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:41 AM

The event needs to recognize all and accept all. No more hate or segregation from within. It is crucial that the LGBTQ+ learn to tolerate themselves first otherwise we look like a joke to society.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:53 AM

City Council and HPS need to lead by example and prove their commitment to supporting marginalized communities in Hamilton

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:09 AM

Changes in the systems that affect the queer community. Maybe start by publicly and very openly apologizing and making real change. The police could stand to be involved in that apology and change along with the city.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:42 AM

1) Bring back a Pride parade. 2) Enlist a City-wide approach to celebration, in addition to key

flagship events held at parks, bars, etc. Solicit participation from 2SLGBTQ+ community allies. E.g. restaurants, coffee shops, the Library, art gallery, rec centres, businesses, etc. Challenge whole community of allies to demonstrate their allyship in meaningful ways. E.g. partner with the library/gallery to screen films during pride, host panel discussions of importance at the library/coffee shops, challenge restaurants to add a special Pride-Themed menu item to their menu and commit to donating a portion of all sales from that item to local charities/organizations supporting queer community, etc.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:48 AM

Building events for police to re-engage with the LGBTQ+ community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:53 AM

Education campaigns, increased funding for resources and support, substantive change to policies - especially in law enforcement.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:56 AM

Public apologies from anybody on the city's payroll (including city-funded groups like HPS) who have caused harm to our queer community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:01 PM

Pride Hamilton and Police finding a way to come together and move forward.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:37 PM

Limited police presence. Only really to ensure harmful protestors do not interfere with community events

Anonymous

4/29/2021 01:18 PM

Sings of common ground between city and community. A better sense from the city of understanding community needs.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 01:30 PM

Kind of a big ask but: a teach-in of some kind, reminding folks that Pride started as a response to police violence. Police would not be

welcome, given that we would be recognizing our ability to persist and take care of each other without police. If HPS is that invested in having a queer space, they certainly have plenty of money to do their own thing.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 02:24 PM

I think that mayor Eisenberger should not make a statement, rather he should provide his own platform to Hamilton's queer community and the LGBTQ+ advisory committee to make that statement. After the events of 2019 and the ensuing harassment Hamilton Queers have faced, Eisenberger should frankly shut the fuck up and let the queer community do the talking, because he's talked enough and he's proven how ignorant he truly is. In summary, Fred keeps his mouth shut unless it's to take full responsibility for his own negligence and inaction, and he gives the platform of his office and the voice and messaging of Hamilton's official Pride statements over to the queer community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 02:46 PM

Changing policy to stop discrimination and violence against the community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 03:13 PM

Have the mayor, and representatives of the City as part of the event. Include as many people as possible, engage businesses.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 03:40 PM

More lgbtq spaces, bars and places . There is none to my knowledge at the moment . There should be events all the time pride or not . Most of the gay people end up going to Toronto for stuff . Hamilton is very backward with the lgbtq community . There are event people but it's very niche .

Anonymous

4/29/2021 04:20 PM

History event, poetry readings, arts displays, crafts

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 Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021
 

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Anonymous

4/29/2021 04:35 PM

events that promote positive interaction with the larger community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 04:48 PM

make sure the venue is ACCESSIBLE. The venue should be a sober space that is accessible for mobility device users. Also a quiet area would be nice for folks with sensory needs and anxiety

Anonymous

4/29/2021 05:19 PM

diversity of events not only a march or parade

Anonymous

4/29/2021 05:56 PM

Make it welcoming to LGBTQ+ people of course, but also people who are BIPOC, disabled and otherwise diverse. Because such groups historically have been biased against by law enforcement, ensuring a safe and welcoming event does not mean having more police presence though.


 4/29/2021 06:10 PM

A rally at City Hall, to raise awareness for Queer issues; a social event in a greenspace; partnering with local businesses to run complimentary Pride events at their establishments.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 06:37 PM

A better relationship with police. The police are very important in our society. The police have to be apart of pride celebrations moving forward.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 06:40 PM

The committee's responsibility should be to advise the city but not plan a Pride event. An event should be planned by other organizations like Pride Hamilton.



 4/29/2021 06:52 PM

I'll reiterate, guidance for such events should happen at the direction and partnership with local community LGBT2SQAI organizations (inclusively with anti-racism and indigenous orgs). This would be a way to ensure advocacy and allyship will have positive impact on the

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 Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021
 

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<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 08:21 PM</p>	<p>community itself.</p> <p>Lack of police presence.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 08:29 PM</p>	<p>The advisory committee should be separate from pride committee.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 08:46 PM</p>	<p>Sharing of experiences at and after Pride 2019—to build awareness and help healing.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:06 PM</p>	<p>Safety from the homophobes and police who can do their jobs</p>
<p> 4/29/2021 09:52 PM</p>	<p>Include as many members from the LGBTQ+ community in the planning process. Include more public art in the city made by members of the LGBTQ+ community around the city. Give grants to artists to make art and events to celebrate Pride. Also focusing on the intersectionality of the community (POC, people with disabilities, indigenous people) and Trans people. Include LGBTQ+ youth as well.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:11 PM</p>	<p>A parade!</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:29 PM</p>	<p>A safe space for our community to gather and celebrate OUR pride</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:41 PM</p>	<p>The creation of a campaign that acknowledges and fights against homophobia and transphobia in the city.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:43 PM</p>	<p>100% a stronger grip on policing Pride events and keeping them safe from hateful mobs. These are events and places LGBTQ+ families come together and they shouldn't be afraid. Police action in the last in-person Pride events has been shamefully lacking, if it can be said it happened at all. Something has to give. The</p>

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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	<p>police needs to be held accountable and the police needs to protect people, and not arrest LGBTQ+ activists at Pride events while bigots brutalize attendees and nobody does anything.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 08:56 AM</p>	<p>-statements of support for Pride - maybe the City shouldn't PLAN Pride, but they should give \$ to the event and in support of the Hamilton organizations who work with the community</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 01:03 PM</p>	<p>Actual action taken to protect members of the community.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 01:15 PM</p>	<p>Like I said above i want my community to run the event not the City.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 01:21 PM</p>	<p>Recognizing and centring the voices of Black Trans Women and 2Spirit folks as they are often the most marginalized. It's important to know how pride was started as a riot by Black Trans Women and the fact that they continue to be killed at an alarming rate.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 01:51 PM</p>	<p>A commemoration of lives lost. Do not exclude sex workers from. The conversations or events, or commemorations.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 02:25 PM</p>	<p>better security and police supervision to keep protestors away and prevent lgbt people from being hurt.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 03:54 PM</p>	<p>Police to respond in an appropriate manner to violent protesters</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:23 PM</p>	<p>See above answer</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:39 PM</p>	<p>Hire queer artists and performances to ensure revenue made by the event impacts the community</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>My ideal would be a street festival</p>

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## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

4/30/2021 04:44 PM

featuring queer artists, queer performers, and queer-owned businesses. Given recent history in Hamilton, it would be important to me that Hamilton police not participate.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:03 PM

Things that I have loved about pride: room for spiritual groups that meet, respond, and heal together with LGBTQ\* folks who have been harmed in or excluded from religious spaces, and music/speakers who express something of the heart of LGBTQ\* Hamilton. A few years ago there was a photo history instalment that I thought was great! I don't recall if there has been space made for people who can offer legal council to folks who might be facing discrimination based on LGBTQ\* status, but I think that including something of this sort would be great!

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:05 PM

Maybe offer chances for speeches during pride events to those who often don't get to have a voice or are suppressed in these communities, and share important experiences. Especially POC LGBT+ individuals.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:10 PM

Opportunities to hear queer and trans speakers and a dance party

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:14 PM

Space for queer creators and business owners to set up booths  
Entertainment supplied by local queer performers  
Information on community programs, social groups, crisis and healthcare support, etc made available  
The local queer community should be featured, for entertainment, catering, etc where ever possible

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:20 PM

Education

Anonymous

Banning of Hamilton Police because



## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

4/30/2021 05:35 PM

for many of the LGBTQ+ community, they are a symbol of oppression and fear, not freedom and pride. Spaces for individuals of all ages, including preteens/teens who aren't able to come families. Protection from anti-gay 'protestors'.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 05:51 PM

Acknowledging (and following through) on the work that still needs to be done to achieve equal rights and end discrimination

Anonymous

4/30/2021 06:08 PM

Different identities, discussion with community and leaders around what the Hamilton city can do to further support and explore issues related to queer folk.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 06:23 PM

Solidarity with Black Lives Matter groups, as fellow victims of police brutality.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 07:10 PM

That anyone is welcome

Anonymous

4/30/2021 11:29 PM

In-person events! Rallies, concerts (all physically distanced with masks)

Anonymous

5/01/2021 09:11 AM

Remembrance Ceremonies for Queer people lost in the past to violence and the aids crisis. A parade

Anonymous


5/01/2021 01:55 PM

Accesible for disabled folks. Minimal or no police presence. Minimal substance use

Anonymous

5/01/2021 01:55 PM

A proper pride march


 5/01/2021 05:19 PM

Rainbow crosswalks should be expanded all across major intersections in all of the communities of Hamilton.

Anonymous

5/01/2021 06:46 PM

Allow for a parade to march downtown to city hall. City funding the event.

Anonymous

5/01/2021 10:01 PM

Recognizing key players in Hamilton's queer community history.

Anonymous

5/01/2021 10:15 PM

Announcements of any new funding, programming/initiatives or service enhancements specific to the LGBTQ2S+ community. This sends a clear message that the city is committed to supporting its queer members.

Anonymous

5/03/2021 08:18 AM

Hearing stories from queer people who come from minorities or have come from religious persecution.

Anonymous

5/03/2021 11:10 AM

A parade to participate in

Anonymous

5/03/2021 01:36 PM

Counselors and other officials showing their support by attending events respectfully.

Anonymous


5/03/2021 02:23 PM

If an event is to occur, then it should have significant involvement from the community. It should be advertised as an event for everyone, and not only city officials should have a platform to say what the ceremony means. Also, since it is likely to be mainly virtual, accessibility is important,. Though to be honest, not being able to gather for this and it potentially ending up only as a photo-op/commercial promoting the city, makes it far less appealing. Due to the likely format, it may be best to just skip it this year until Queer representation in force and in person can be more likely to occur.

Anonymous

5/04/2021 12:50 PM

Recognize and highlight BIPOC within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community  
Avoid a heavy police presence, make the event more welcoming to people of color, undocumented immigrants, and religious minorities


  
5/04/2021 02:39 PM

The City of Hamilton, Hamilton Fire & Rescue, Hamilton Police Service, Hamilton Transit Authority (HSR) must committee to an official

declaration of our city as a safe place and zero tolerance of hate in all forms, Gay hate, Trans hate, Black hate, Indigenous hate, Asian hate, women hate. This supported by a city ordinance that empower our legal law enforcement officials to do their job and protect our community with community specific police training with our city 2SLGBTQ+ Liaison Officer, our 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory committee, our Pride Hamilton Organization and our QTDC Hamilton Organization working collectively to achieve the goal of reconciliation for our community members whiles building up a stronger Hamilton by fighting the hate that has stained our city and kept our community in fear.

  
5/04/2021 03:10 PM

Advertisement for LGBTQA+ hotlines.

Anonymous  
5/04/2021 06:55 PM


Accessible, ASL, captioning

Anonymous  
5/04/2021 07:03 PM

a picnic

Anonymous  
5/04/2021 08:24 PM

The shitstorm of pride 2019 and how exactly they are making amends

  
5/05/2021 12:45 PM

No uniformed cops.

Anonymous  
5/06/2021 07:46 AM

Make sure it's safe for people -work with the Police to ensure this.

Anonymous  
5/06/2021 02:44 PM

Encouraging and supporting members of the community to create pandemic-safe "events" to recognize Pride in ways that speak to their experience as a Hamiltonian, so that there is not one 'city event' that gets so much scrutiny and has to be so much to so many.

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 02:52 PM</p>	<p>Clean up the rainbow crossing at City Hall</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 02:55 PM</p>	<p>All city buildings need to have visible displays including the library and municipal sites</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 03:19 PM</p>	<p>Security that does not attack the people they are there to protect.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 03:20 PM</p>	<p>Supports in place for less privileged queer+ individuals, not arresting people for acting in response to protestors threatening them, whether that "violates their parole" or not. No in-uniform or on duty cops, elevation and amplification of non-binary, trans and bipoc voices, perhaps adding some of their voices to this committee (if not already, I apologize I do not know the members right now)</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 05:26 PM</p>	<p>Free education for those who want to learn about the lgbtq+ community or promoting ways to support the community</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 05:36 PM</p>	<p>comments from political supporter, allies</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 06:21 PM</p>	<p>Having different businesses that are owned by LGBTQ+ and 2 Spirit people, music, different talks.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 07:57 PM</p>	<p>I think Hamilton can dedicate some of the city's empty spots to LGBTQ+ artists as a way to empower and educate.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 09:13 PM</p>	<p>difficult to say due to covid</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 10:40 PM</p>	<p>Peaceful</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/06/2021 11:29 PM</p>	<p>Education, awareness and promote acceptance</p>

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## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

Anonymous

5/07/2021 12:16 AM

That we realize that this event should promote what being a member of the community is about and that's practicing love for all.

Anonymous

5/07/2021 10:27 AM

The Committee's work


 5/07/2021 02:23 PM

I think the safety and security of the participants should be of the highest priority. What happened at Gage park was not acceptable and drowns the effect of the event. This is the time of the year when this community should feel safe, not targetted.


 5/07/2021 03:11 PM

Recognizing the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community. Sharing Hamilton's LGBTQ+ history (highs and lows).

Anonymous

5/07/2021 07:59 PM

Leaders that actually walk their talk by doing things beyond flying symbols in front of City Hall.

Anonymous

5/08/2021 12:01 AM

Bringing our inclusive community together

Anonymous

5/08/2021 09:45 PM

Pride picnic where all members of the community can attend

Anonymous

5/09/2021 11:26 AM

Forcible removal of right wing extremists and christofascists from our city, and prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law. That would feel like a true, nonperformative recognition of pride.

Anonymous

5/09/2021 03:00 PM

Defunding the Police and reallocating funds to queer people and queer initiatives in the city. Uplifting homeless youth, many of whom are 2SLGBTQ+ and investing in long term housing solutions. Deferring to the authority of queer community members, and allowing them to speak against violence, even when it makes the city look bad (hint: there are issues in this city that need to be

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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	addressed). Going beyond "love is love" and focusing on queer liberation. Uplifting trans and two-spirit people in particular. Hiring queer artists and paying them well. Engaging the drag and ballroom communities. NO POLICING
Anonymous 5/11/2021 03:08 PM	Have Indigenous opening ceremonies.
Anonymous 5/12/2021 08:00 AM	Recognize families as part of the community.
Anonymous 5/13/2021 06:21 AM	Rainbow coloring everywhere
Anonymous 5/13/2021 07:38 AM	Fly the trans flag while you're at it.
Anonymous 5/13/2021 08:45 AM	Pride parade!!!
Anonymous 5/13/2021 10:05 AM	Including everyone. No matter what their job or function is. Military, police, etc
Anonymous 5/13/2021 11:00 AM	Recognizing the history of queers in Hamilton
Anonymous 5/13/2021 12:05 PM	Maybe like, local businesses could sell some cool pride merch?
Anonymous 5/13/2021 12:28 PM	Nope
Anonymous 5/13/2021 02:33 PM	Police doing their job to protect citizens.

**Optional question** (117 response(s), 43 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q9** Please let us know if there is anything else you would like the LGBTQ Advisory Committee to know in order to help them make a recommendation to City Council about an event to recognize Pride, this year and in future years.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

We should hire an adjacent city's police force 3rd party to prove to HPS that they can be defunded and replaced. We do this with justices of the peace why not our own safety? It's free market capitalism after all :)

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:33 AM

Just further stressing that police shouldn't be involved at all in pride celebrations or events, and spaces that are closed for trans/non-binary and BIPOC queer people should be considered necessities.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:35 AM

The city is imperfect, but public displays of support for our community matter a lot. Giving up those displays as a form of political action feels wrong. I don't want the committee to advocate on my behalf against the city engaging in public displays of support for my community.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:41 AM

Thank you for the work you do against opposition from within City Hall.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:44 AM

Fire Cameron

Anonymous

4/29/2021 09:47 AM

Let actual LGBTQ+ people plan & execute things - not random city employees and especially not police.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:06 AM

Hamilton won't name systemic racism and discrimination and it makes people feel bad to live in a backward city. Believing it's more important not to offend people who are discriminatory is offensive and might be seen as the city having lower-level thinking in leadership.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:41 AM

We need to make clear that pride focused events are not "parties". Pride is a day where we remember those before us who fought and died for us and our rights. Who fought and

died to live authentically. Many of those on the outside view Pride as just one big party and wonder why cis or straight people can't have "a pride party". We need to educate these people and show them that this isn't just a big, fun bash. Pride has a deeper meaning. It needs to be taken more seriously.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:53 AM

Highlight queer and racialized community members and their contributions to Hamilton and beyond.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:09 AM

Please don't let the City, HPS or council claim any credit for supporting these people or communities. They shelter bigots and step on people fighting for justice. And keep up the great work!

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:42 AM

Visibility matters. Stand up and commit to making sure everyone from Stoney Creek to Binbrook to Lynden to Rockton to Waterdown to Dundas to Downtown knows that Hamilton celebrates and supports Pride - then back it up with concrete action.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:48 AM

Work with other LGBTQ+ organizations more closely such as The queer trans diversity coalition, Pride Hamilton, Hamilton inclusive softball association.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 11:56 AM

The city should not proceed with any events that are not recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 12:01 PM

Work with pride Hamilton and the trans-queer diversity coalition.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 01:30 PM

In future years, I would like to see measurable differences happening in the housing situation in this city. I have been on the housing waitlist, and I have seen the kind of place I would have ended up if it weren't for



what feels like the grace of God that I somehow found a roommate and a decent, safe apartment that just hadn't been listed yet. In reality, what saved me was: the fact that unhoused queer people do sometimes find each other despite the lack of support from the city, the properly-funded artist-run centres that have provided me with equitable employment, and a whole lot of luck. Trying to find a safe home almost killed me, and not knowing if I could find a place after this one because of how much worse the housing crisis is getting makes it difficult to feel like I will ever truly have my head above water. Until we are all free, it doesn't feel like there is a whole lot to celebrate.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 02:24 PM

I would like to see a march in future years, and platforms given to Hamilton Queers who have been victimized by the Hamilton Police and by the City of Hamilton, specifically folks like Cedar Hopperton. I would like to see the City of Hamilton and HPS give specific apologies to individuals for violating their rights, and to publicly name and hold accountable every individual HPS officer who has had a hand in targeting and harassing Hamilton Queers, from the top down starting with Eric Gert.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 03:13 PM

Adequate security, preferably private instead of relying on the Hamilton Police Department. Considering the historical contentious relationship the City PD espouses towards LGBTQ residents. Also more importantly- not to let those preachers inside. They are free to protest anywhere else in the City if they chose to do so. Safety and Accountability are of the utmost importance.

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**Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021**


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Anonymous

4/29/2021 03:40 PM

Make pride run alongside with art crawl? That would be amazing .  
Pride should take place around city hall and James street . That would be fun . Gage park is boring , plus all the hate groups gather there too

Anonymous

4/29/2021 04:20 PM

NA

Anonymous

4/29/2021 04:24 PM

There should be a separate Pride organization, a not for profit w charitable status, separate from this advisory to council members including mayor.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 05:56 PM

Make it welcoming for allies, closeted folks and people who may pass as straight or cis.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 06:37 PM

Don't let your personal grievances and issues with the City speak for all of us.



4/29/2021 06:52 PM

Advisory committee should advise from the LGBT2SQAI community, not make policy for it.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 08:29 PM

The city should fund and celebrate pride but the pride committee should be accountable for the event

Anonymous

4/29/2021 08:46 PM

Never have police at Pride.



4/29/2021 09:52 PM

Some drag shows would be cool, I'd love to see a parade as well. It would be great to see more LGBTQ+ public art made around the city.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:11 PM

These events and ceremonies in London, where I live, are extremely popular, and help to foster understanding and respect.

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:29 PM

We should bring back the parade down public streets. I used to walk in it from City Hall down James to the Bayfront. Highly visible and OUR event.

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

Anonymous

4/29/2021 10:43 PM

Keep people safe. Hold police accountable. Also: as much as we like to keep Pride accessible to all ages, we have to accept that some LGBTQ+ individuals who have been most marginalized - sex workers, for example - aren't "family friendly content", but also have a place at Pride events, and their place at Pride is more important and meaningful than making the whole event "family friendly". Pride celebrations rise from the riots that started in nightclubs, cruise clubs. Creating Pride celebrations that are solely PG is somewhat problematic. Reducing LGBTQ+ identity and Pride to a more marketable "love is love" silences the voices of a lot of queer individuals whose queerness isn't "family friendly". Aromantics who are, for example, very much not asexual. Allosexuals. As said, sex workers. Cruise and leather culture and identities. Etcetera.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:15 PM

Pride is about celebrating our differences.

Anonymous

4/30/2021 01:21 PM

To centre BIPOC voices, ensure police presence is minimal if not at all, address white supremacy and capitalist structures which uphold the pink washing that occurs by many brands during pride

Anonymous

4/30/2021 02:25 PM

n/a

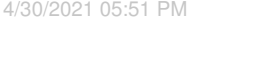
Anonymous

4/30/2021 04:23 PM

Be respectful. The city had a long history of terrible behaviour, don't skip over the work that's required for positive change. Further performative actions will continue to cause harm and further erase the experiences of the community that is suppose to be the focus for pride seasons

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

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<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:39 PM</p>	<p>No police at pride</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 04:44 PM</p>	<p>It would be important for the LGBTQ Advisory Committee or similar group to be responsible for the planning.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:05 PM</p>	<p>Possibly find a better way to prevent situations of protest breaking out into violence from those against pride, or de-escalate the situation. Efforts of this in previous events haven't been as great.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:14 PM</p>	<p>It'd be really awesome to have a big pride celebration locally</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:21 PM</p>	<p>Regardless of whether or not the police are involved, a private security force should be employed to protect Pride-goers from anti-LGBTQ protesters. The police have proven themselves to be unwilling and incapable of protecting our community. I would be willing to donate to such a security detail if the city wouldn't fund it.</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 05:51 PM</p>	<p>There are a lot of disabled queer folks and any pride events should be sure to include accessibility</p>
<p>Anonymous 4/30/2021 11:29 PM</p>	<p>It NEEDS to be community led. All options off the table if non-community members expect to be decision makers.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 09:11 AM</p>	<p>Pride should be a celebration of diversity that includes people of all kinds to promote strength in diversity.</p>
<p>Anonymous 5/01/2021 01:55 PM</p>	<p>I dont think the city should directly organise the event, but rather be created by community orgs and members.</p>
<p> 5/01/2021 05:19 PM</p>	<p>LGBTQ safe space decals should be at all city owned properties with a ceremony recognizing this initiative.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>The city should be through the</p>

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## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

5/01/2021 06:46 PM

tourism office advertising the event.

Anonymous

N/A

5/01/2021 10:15 PM

Anonymous

Design the event from an inclusive perspective. Make it accessible for those who identify with a disability, include sign language interpreters and live captioning, set aside sensory-friendly and low-noise spaces, have fragrance-free and smoking-free policies, etc. Also, consider who is on the event-planning team. Add people from underrepresented groups to the team, to advocate for marginalized groups and make decisions so that everyone can enjoy the event.

5/04/2021 12:50 PM


 5/04/2021 02:39 PM

Please remind City Council that you are advising them on our behalf, don't take our community's only voice at council for granted or down play the request that our city so desperately need, such as that 2SLGBTQ+ Community Centre that can be used as a central office for our community to connect and get supports from a place that is visibly our Community Hub.

Anonymous

The city needs to put significant support behind Pride every year and that includes consequences for hate groups infringing on right to assembly for LGBTQ community

5/04/2021 06:55 PM

Anonymous

a clear message that anti-pride demonstrators are not welcome

5/04/2021 07:03 PM

Anonymous

Nothing you got this

5/04/2021 08:24 PM


 5/05/2021 12:45 PM

No uniformed cops.

Anonymous

I answered that the advisory

## Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021

5/06/2021 02:44 PM

committee shouldn't be responsible for planning the event because the City needs serious policy guidance. It is exciting to plan an event and it soaks up all the time. Every minute a city advisory committee spends putting together an event is a lost opportunity to hold elected officials and city staff accountable to their promises of equity. Advocate for the community to feel safe and supported in making conspicuous displays of pride and SOGI diversity, instead of being the group that's spending time making those displays.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 02:55 PM

Think about communities outside of the core. Include queer and trans owned businesses and venues existing in the community. QUEER AND TRANS people not politicians need to be the focus

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:19 PM

Education is everything. Pride shouldn't just be a vendor's dream. More history needs to be spread, not sold.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 03:20 PM

Mainly no cops, and more events spotlighting non-binary genders and trans people, bipoc, etc.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 07:57 PM

We're seeing obvious signs that a lot of our future leaders are part of the LGBTQ+ community. Instead of fighting against our own residents we could be working together towards progressive change that will make Hamilton even more amazing. Showing that the city takes Pride seriously will bring more tourism and business. Change is happening whether we want it or not, let's not drag our feet and hold our city back.

Anonymous

5/06/2021 10:40 PM

Why is there something called "Pride"? (a group?) It is unclear to me as to what this Pride group is and its relationship with the the city and LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

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**Commemorating Pride Survey : Survey Report for 29 April 2021 to 13 May 2021**


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Anonymous

5/06/2021 11:29 PM

Promotion of how others can support this community



5/07/2021 02:23 PM

Include local partners, forget the politics of it all. Protect and celebrate pride

Anonymous

5/07/2021 07:59 PM

Nothing comes to mind at this time.

Anonymous

5/08/2021 12:01 AM

It's important to do this... think of the young folks who need this to feel they belong

Anonymous

5/08/2021 09:45 PM

Be different. Instead of a parade have a picnic. Feed the souls. sharing of food and flag raising

Anonymous

5/09/2021 11:26 AM

The city has to publically state that the right wing loonies are not welcome here AND follow that with the strongest possible enforcement/containment/sanction

Anonymous

5/09/2021 03:00 PM

Remember the ways this city has hurt us and hold them accountable. Keep the police out of Pride. Remember the history of Pride and honour it beyond an apolitical festival.

Anonymous

5/11/2021 03:08 PM

Keep speeches tp a minimum. The Mayor and Co-chairs of the Advisory.

Anonymous

5/12/2021 08:00 AM

I appreciate the work the Advisory Committee does. Continue the hard work you do and let's make future Pride events even better than before

Anonymous

5/12/2021 09:44 AM

Absolutely opposed to coloured crossing marks and pride flag. Their behavior in parades is absolutely disgusting.

Anonymous

5/13/2021 07:38 AM

Make sure city council provides adequate policing.

Anonymous

5/13/2021 11:00 AM

I really want the city to focus on healing and inclusion this year. We've all had a really hard time

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lately and it's important to feel  
welcome

Anonymous  
5/13/2021 12:05 PM

I think having a moment supported  
by the city to celebrate our queer  
folks is really important. We spend  
too much time invisible, so being  
seen and acknowledged by our city is  
really important.

Anonymous  
5/13/2021 12:28 PM

Nope

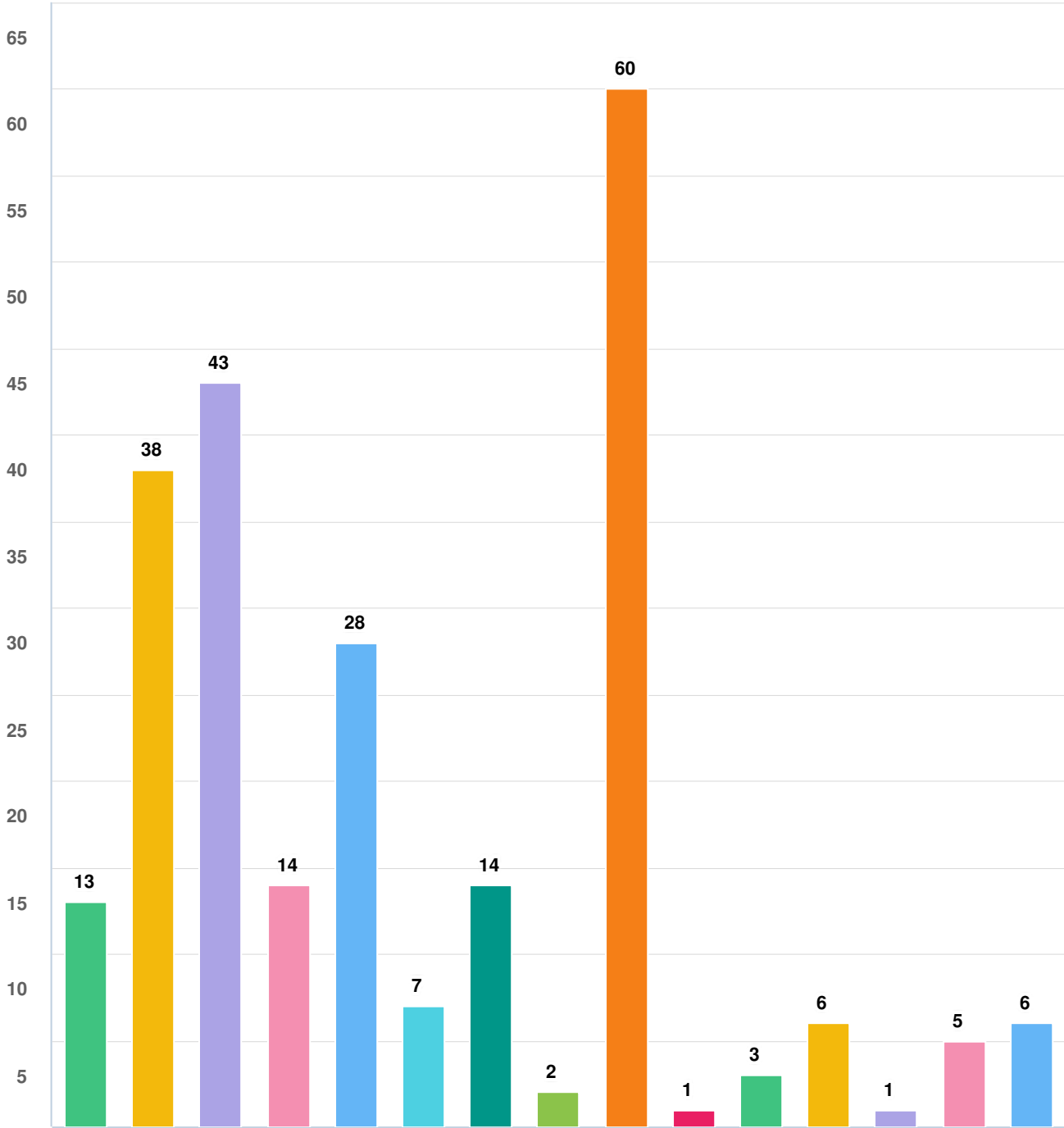
Anonymous  
5/13/2021 02:33 PM

Connect with the HWDSB positive  
space system committee to see if the  
students want to take a leading role.

**Optional question** (72 response(s), 88 skipped)  
**Question type:** Essay Question



**Q10 How do you identify your sexual orientation? Please check all that apply.**



**Question options**

- Ace/Asexual   ● Bisexual   ● Gay   ● Heterosexual/Straight   ● Lesbian   ● Man who has sex with men (msm)
- Pansexual   ● Polysexual   ● Queer   ● Questioning   ● Two-spirit   ● Woman who has sex with women (wsw)
- Not Sure   ● Prefer to self-identify, please specify:   ● Prefer not to answer

Optional question (159 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q11 | Sexual orientation self-identify, please specify:**

Anonymous  
4/29/2021 05:56 PM

Bi romantic

  
4/29/2021 06:52 PM

Panromantic

Anonymous  
4/30/2021 05:10 PM

Demisexual

Anonymous  
5/01/2021 12:05 PM

Biromantic

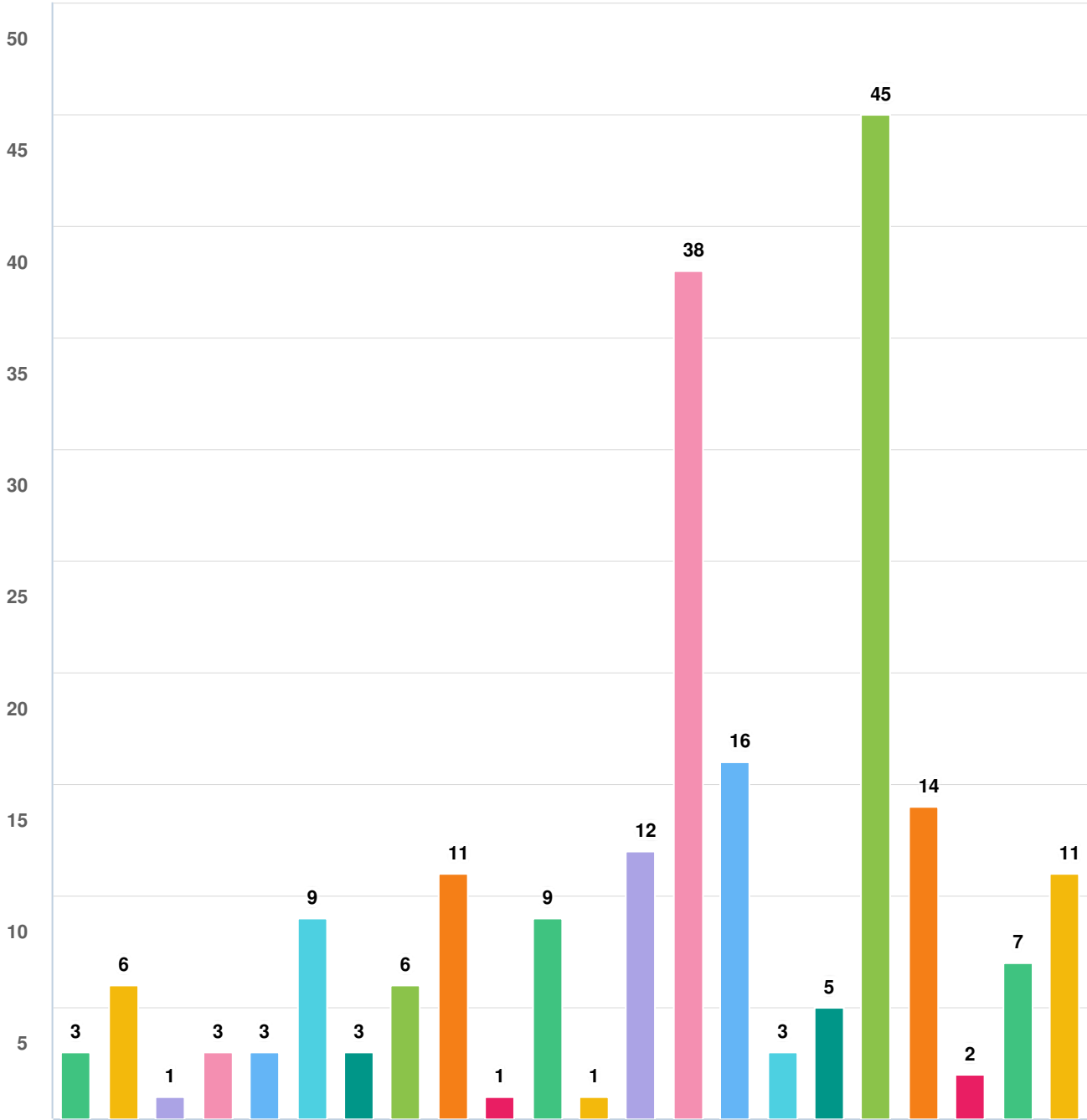
  
5/05/2021 12:45 PM

aromantic

**Optional question** (5 response(s), 155 skipped)

**Question type:** Single Line Question

**Q12 Which of the following best describes your gender? Please check all that apply.**



**Question options**

- Agender/Non-gender    Androgynous    Bigender    Boi    Butch    Femme    FTM (female-to-male)
- Gender Fluid    Gender Non-Conforming    Gender variant    Genderqueer    Intersex    Man (Trans)
- Man (Cis)    Non-binary    Questioning    Woman (Trans)    Woman (Cis)    Transgender/trans person
- Transsexual    Prefer to self identify, please specify:    Prefer not to answer

Optional question (158 response(s), 2 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q13** Gender self-identify, please specify:

Anonymous 4/29/2021 01:30 PM	Transsexual
Anonymous 4/29/2021 05:56 PM	Greygender
Anonymous 4/29/2021 09:48 PM	Just a guy
Anonymous 4/29/2021 10:43 PM	trans man, queer
Anonymous 4/30/2021 03:54 PM	Female
Anonymous 5/01/2021 12:05 PM	Genderfae (never male-aligned)
 5/05/2021 12:45 PM	gender is weird tho.

**Optional question** (7 response(s), 153 skipped)

**Question type:** Single Line Question



## CITY OF HAMILTON

Investigation into a complaint about a meeting held by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton on October 20, 2020

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**Paul Dubé**  
**Ombudsman of Ontario**

**Citation:** Hamilton (City of) (Re), 2021 ONOMBUD 9

**Date:** 2021-04-22

## SUMMARY

The Ombudsman received a complaint about an electronic meeting held by the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton. The Ombudsman found that the public livestream of the meeting was not available for approximately 23 minutes. As a result, the Ombudsman found that the public was excluded from the meeting contrary to the *Municipal Act*.

## COMPLAINT

- 1 My Office received a complaint that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee (the “LGBTQ Advisory Committee” or the “committee”) for the City of Hamilton (the “City”) held a virtual meeting on October 20, 2020 that was not open to the public contrary to the *Municipal Act, 2001*<sup>1</sup> (the “Act”). The complaint alleged that during the virtual meeting, the livestream broadcast went down for approximately 23 minutes. During this time, the public was not able to watch the meeting in progress.

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<sup>1</sup> SO 2001, c 25.

## OMBUDSMAN JURISDICTION

- 2 Under the *Municipal Act*, all meetings of council, local boards, and committees of council must be open to the public, unless they fall within prescribed exceptions.
- 3 As of January 1, 2008, the Act gives anyone the right to request an investigation into whether a municipality has complied with the Act in closing a meeting to the public. Municipalities may appoint their own investigator. The Act designates the Ombudsman as the default investigator for municipalities that have not appointed their own.
- 4 The Ombudsman is the closed meeting investigator for the City of Hamilton.
- 5 In investigating closed meeting complaints, we consider whether the open meeting requirements of the Act and the municipality's governing procedures have been observed.
- 6 Our Office has investigated hundreds of closed meetings since 2008. To assist municipal councils, staff, and the public, we have developed an online digest of open meeting cases. This searchable repository was created to provide easy access to the Ombudsman's decisions on, and interpretations of, the open meeting rules. Council members and staff can consult the digest to inform their discussions and decisions on whether certain matters can or should be discussed in closed session, as well as issues related to open meeting procedures. Summaries of the Ombudsman's previous decisions can be found in the digest: [www.ombudsman.on.ca/digest](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca/digest).

## INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

- 7 On November 20, 2020, we advised the City of our intent to investigate the October 20, 2020 meeting.
- 8 Members of my Office's open meeting team reviewed relevant portions of the City's by-laws and policies, and the Act. We reviewed the meeting records from the meeting and documentation we were provided by the City. We interviewed the committee's staff member liaison and the Chair of the committee.
- 9 My Office received full co-operation in this matter.

## COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

- 10 The City's procedural by-law (By-law No. 18-270) defines "committee" as a standing committee, sub-committee, selection committee or advisory committee or task force established by council from time to time. Under the procedural by-law, council may create advisory committees in response to specific matters requiring immediate or long-term attention.
- 11 Section 8 of the procedural by-law states that no meeting of council or a committee shall be closed to the public unless in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- 12 Section 9 of the procedural by-law permits electronic participation during meetings by members of advisory committees, including the LGBTQ Advisory Committee. Appendix L to the procedural by-law contains rules of procedures during electronic meetings for advisory committees.
- 13 The City updated its Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook to include guidance for holding and conducting electronic meetings. Page 11 of the Handbook provides steps advisory committees should follow if technical issues prevent public attendance during an electronic meeting:

If the meeting is interrupted and cannot proceed with its live feed, the meeting will be recessed for up to 15 minutes, or until the live feed is resumed. If the live feed cannot be resumed within 15 minutes, the meeting will be considered adjourned. The Committee will meet at the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

If the meeting is interrupted and its live feed cannot be resumed, the names of the Committee members present shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and any decisions of Committee up to the point in time of the interruption.

- 14 The Handbook was distributed to staff liaisons who were instructed by the Clerk's department to provide the Handbook to the City's advisory committees. The Handbook and the changes to the procedural by-law for electronic meetings was provided to the committee in August 2020.

## BACKGROUND

### The LGBTQ Advisory Committee

- 15 The committee reports to City council on issues and concerns pertaining to the LGBTQ community. Its mandate includes eliminating barriers experienced by LGBTQ communities by making recommendations to council and staff.

- 16 The committee is comprised of one council member and nine citizen members.
- 17 Under s. 238 of the Act, a committee “means any advisory or other committee, subcommittee or similar entity of which at least 50 per cent of the members are also members of one or more councils or local boards[.]” A body can also be a committee if deemed so by municipal by-law.
- 18 All meetings of council, local boards, and committees of council must follow the open meeting rules contained in the Act, as well as comply with the requirements of the procedure by-law.
- 19 The definition of committee under section 1.1 of the City’s procedural by-law includes advisory committees:
- “Committee” means a Standing Committee, Sub-Committee, Selection Committee or an Advisory Committee or Task Force established by Council from time to time.
- 20 The LGBTQ advisory committee’s membership is not composed of at least 50 percent council members. However, the committee meets the definition of a “committee” as an advisory committee under the City’s procedural by-law and is subject to the open meeting rules.

### The October 20, 2020 committee meeting

- 21 The committee met virtually on October 20, 2020. The committee Chair told my Office that this was the second time the committee was meeting electronically and the first meeting with a full agenda. As such, the committee members were still familiarizing themselves with the electronic meeting technology and the process of conducting an electronic meeting.
- 22 In addition to the committee members, a staff liaison was also present during the meeting. The role of the staff liaison is to assist the committee with administration, act as a liaison between the committee and the City, and provide guidance during meetings. The Clerk told my Office that the staff liaison was provided with training on the virtual meeting process and the platform used to host virtual meetings. With respect to electronic meetings, the staff liaison is responsible for inviting committee members to meetings, acting as host during a meeting, and initiating the live broadcast of a meeting on YouTube. In order to livestream an electronic meeting, the staff liaison must be connected to the City’s VPN and enter a unique key into the electronic meeting platform. Once the key is entered, the meeting is automatically broadcast on YouTube. Only the staff liaison is provided with the unique key by the City.



- 23 On October 20, the staff liaison was working from home and using her home internet connection to host the committee's electronic meeting and stream the meeting on YouTube. The staff liaison told my Office that she was also connected to the City's VPN while the meeting was ongoing.
- 24 During the committee's discussion about item 8.4 on the meeting agenda, the staff liaison's home Wi-Fi stopped working. As a result, the staff liaison dropped out of the electronic meeting and the YouTube livestream ceased. Members of the public who were watching the meeting on YouTube were unable to access the livestream.
- 25 The staff liaison told my Office that she assumed that, as the host of the meeting, when she dropped out of the electronic meeting, the meeting had ended for all of the participants. The staff liaison texted the committee chair to inform him that her internet had stopped working. The committee chair acknowledged her text but did not inform her that the meeting was ongoing.
- 26 The committee chair told my Office initially the committee did not notice that the staff liaison had left the meeting or that the livestream had stopped. During this period, the meeting continued. After a few minutes, the committee members noticed that the staff liaison was no longer present in the virtual meeting and the livestream was no longer working. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to continue the meeting.
- 27 Eventually, the staff liaison reconnected to the virtual meeting and re-connected the livestream on YouTube.
- 28 Neither the committee chair nor the staff liaison followed the procedure contained in the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook when the meeting livestream was interrupted.
- 29 The next day, city staff investigated the incident and confirmed that when the staff liaison's home Wi-Fi went down, her connection to the City's VPN was also severed. As a result, the livestream broadcast of the meeting stopped for approximately 23 minutes.

## ANALYSIS

### Electronic meetings in the City of Hamilton

- 30 The *Municipal Act, 2001* requires that all meetings of a municipal council, local board, or a committee of either of them be open to the public, except in limited circumstances set out in s. 239 of the Act. The Act also sets procedural rules for closed meetings.

- 31 The Supreme Court of Canada acknowledged the importance of the open meeting rules in *London (City) v. RSJ Holdings Inc.*<sup>2</sup> According to the Supreme Court, the intent of the open meeting rules is to “increase public confidence in the integrity of local government, by ensuring the open and transparent exercise of municipal power”.<sup>3</sup> A fundamental part of this is the public’s “right to observe the municipal government in process.”<sup>4</sup>
- 32 Municipalities are now permitted to hold electronic meetings. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the province amended the Act to provide that members of councils, local boards and committees who participate electronically in meetings may be counted for purposes of quorum. However, the amendments did not change the Act’s basic requirement that meetings be open to the public, or a municipality’s obligations under the open meeting rules.
- 33 On March 20, 2020, the City of Hamilton amended its procedural by-law to allow members of council to participate electronically in committee and council meetings. The City made further amendments to permit the use of electronic participation during citizen advisory committee meetings. City staff were deployed to support advisory committees by hosting electronic meetings and managing livestreaming to the public.
- 34 The City also updated the Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook to include procedures for holding and conducting electronic meetings. If an electronic meeting or its livestream is interrupted, the meeting should be recessed for up to 15 minutes and then adjourned if the livestream cannot be reconnected.

### October 20, 2020 meeting

- 35 The City and the committee have acknowledged that the livestream of the October 20, 2020 meeting was unavailable for approximately 23 minutes due to technical issues. Accordingly, the meeting was improperly closed to the public during that time contrary to the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- 36 In preparing for electronic meetings, the City established procedures to account for technology issues that could interrupt an electronic meeting. The Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook outlines the steps that committees must take in the event that the livestream of an electronic meeting goes down. Had those procedures been followed, the meeting may have been recessed or adjourned when the livestream went down rather than improperly closed to the public.

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<sup>2</sup> *London (City) v RSJ Holdings Inc.*, 2007 SCC 29, <<https://canlii.ca/t/1rtq1>>.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* at para 19.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* at para 32.

- 37** I recognize the City's efforts in developing electronic meeting procedures, which is a best practice recommendation that my Office has made in a previous report that considered virtual meetings.<sup>5</sup> In that report, I also recommended that municipalities should consider having a second method for streaming the meeting so that they can switch to another service if there are issues with the first. Municipalities may also wish to consider having a staff member log in to the live stream as if they were a member of the public to monitor its quality and clarity.
- 38** It is also important that municipalities provide training to members of council, local boards, and committees on electronic meeting policies and procedures. In this case, while the City provided the committee with the updated Handbook, my Office was told that the committee chair had also requested training from the City on the electronic meeting software. In response, the City provided the chair with some tips on how to run an electronic meeting, including how to take roll call and use the chat function to request technical assistance from staff. However, this advice did not address what to do if technical issues prevented the public from accessing the meeting.
- 39** In response to a preliminary version of this report, the Clerk informed my Office that the City has dedicated additional support for advisory committees and staff liaisons to ensure that electronic meetings adhere to the open meeting rules in future - such as providing additional training to staff liaisons on the City's electronic meeting procedures and creating a training video as a resource tool. I commend the City for these steps.

## OPINION

- 40** The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton contravened the *Municipal Act, 2001*, on October 20, 2020 when it held a portion of a meeting that the public was unable to attend due to technical issues. While the meeting was closed inadvertently, the committee was aware that the livestream had failed and chose to continue the meeting anyways.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 41** I make the following recommendations to assist the City of Hamilton and the LGBTQ Advisory Committee in fulfilling their obligations under the Act and enhancing the transparency of their meetings.

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<sup>5</sup> *Westport (Village of) (Re)*, 2021 ONOMBUD 5 (CanLII), <<https://canlii.ca/t/jdpvc>>.

### Recommendation 1

All members of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton should be vigilant in adhering to their individual and collective obligation to ensure that the committee complies with its responsibilities under the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the procedure by-law.

### Recommendation 2

The City of Hamilton should review its policy for the conduct of virtual meetings and ensure that staff members and advisory committee members receive training on the policy's content, especially the steps to be taken if technical issues prevent public attendance during a meeting.

## REPORT

- 42 Council for the City of Hamilton was given the opportunity to review a preliminary version of this report and provide comments to our Office. In light of the restrictions in place related to the COVID-19 pandemic, some adjustments were made to our normal preliminary review process and we thank the City of Hamilton for their co-operation and flexibility. Any comments received were considered in the preparation of this final report.
- 43 This report will be published on my Office's website, and should be made public by the City of Hamilton as well. In accordance with s. 239.2(12) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, council should pass a resolution stating how it intends to address this report.

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**Paul Dubé**  
Ombudsman of Ontario