

Pilon, Janet

Subject: In Support of Protocol (HUR17002)

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From: Baade, Christina [mailto:baadec@mcmaster.ca]

Sent: March-06-17 9:20 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: In Support of Protocol (HUR17002)

Dear Mr. Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I'm writing in support of the Protocol for Gender Identity and Gender Expression; Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Persons (HUR17002).

As a professor with a strong research interest in gender and sexuality studies, I can attest to the scholarly consensus on the complexity of human gender identities and expression, which cannot be reduced to a simple "boy v. girl" binary. Moreover, as a professor, I regularly teach and interact with a wide range of students (and other colleagues) who are trans* and gender nonconforming. The world is still a difficult place for trans* people, and some of these young people are extremely vulnerable. They deserve to live with dignity. This protocol will help ensure that their human rights are protected in Hamilton—not just on paper but in material, everyday terms. These can be as basic as being called "he" by city staff, if that is their preference, or using a public bathroom safely.

I am also writing as a mother, wife, friend, and Hamilton community member. My wife and I love living in Hamilton, and we love bringing up our son here—in Hamilton public schools, at the hockey rink and public swimming classes, in our neighborhood, and throughout this city. We see the protocol as one more step toward making this a just, inclusive city that we can be proud to call home.

Thank you for considering this protocol. I urge every member of the Audit Finance and Administration Committee to support it.

Sincerely,
Dr. Christina Baade

Christina Baade
University Scholar (2015-19)
Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia

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