

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ advisory committee integrity complaint - for submission to Council meeting this week

From: Eli Jackson

Sent: September 28, 2020 12:58 PM

To: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Hello councillors,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the treatment of LGBTQ advisory committee chair, Cameron Kroetsch. Cameron works tirelessly and ethically to support struggles for justice and equity; he has dedicated his time and energy to learning about how our City works and to contributing to its improvement for all of us, and particularly for those who are currently oppressed, marginalized, ignored, or harmed.

I request clarification of why this investigation is being prioritized over others that seek to address the behaviour of council members themselves. It reads as a move to silence critique and to exert power. It seems Cameron is under investigation for carrying out the mandate of this committee, in a position he is entrusted with by the communities he represents, with clarity and courage. It is hard not to feel he is being targeted because of his positions (which, again, are those of the committee he is serving on) and because his articulate advocacy is threatening to those who would rather avoid critical engagement or robust listening to those concerns.

Further, in a context where members of council have repeatedly been hostile, threatening and disparaging to community members, it is troubling to see yet another incident that threatens to scare, silence, or dissuade others from sharing their perspectives and advocating on issues they believe in.

I urge you to reject the IC report's recommendations entirely, to congratulate and thank Cameron for his continued service to our shared community, and to work together to make municipal politics something we can all be part of. Things are getting very ugly in Hamilton politics and we are all losing out as a result.

Sincerely,

Liz Jackson

Happy Ward 1 resident