

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

From: Rachel Cuthill

Sent: September 28, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

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Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

Mayor Eisenberger

I am writing with regards to the Integrity Commissioners investigation and proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

Investigating Mr. Kroetsch in the first place, as a citizen volunteer, fast tracking his case over 14 others currently weighed against members of City Council, seems to me to be an abuse of the role of the Commissioner and of Council's power. That role is in place to provide accountability to our elected officials, such as when they physically assault journalists, call their constituents "keyboard morons" for advocating for safe streets, or verbally attacking community members online, and degrading houseless Hamiltonians. Indeed, the Commissioner has 14 such cases underway, and yet prioritized the punitive investigation of Mr. Kroetsch for his words in his role as committee chair.

Additionally, the content of Mr. Kroetsch's criticism has been confirmed by the Police themselves. Chief Girt has issued an apology admitting that the police response at Pride 2019 was insufficient. And yet Mr. Kroetsch is facing a complaint and the threat of removal from his role for making the same statements.

Mr. Mayor, criticism and dissent are crucial parts of a functional democracy. The job of Council is to serve the people of Hamilton, not just the ones who agree with Council Members. While Cameron Kroetsch may have had things to say that reflected poorly on the City of Hamilton and the HPS, they were said because his role necessitates that he demand better of those entities so that they can represent and serve all of the people of Hamilton, including those that are the most marginalized.

Removing Mr. Kroetsch from his role would serve to once again silence and belittle dissent, rather than embracing a call to identify areas in which Hamilton can better. Lately it seems that not all of Council shares that goal. They seem to feel that their job is to maintain the status quo and put down those who ask for better.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Rachel Cuthill,
Ward 4