

4.12 (v)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Regarding Recommendation to Remove Mr. Kroetsch from LGBTQ Advisory Committee

From: Dana Hansen

Sent: September 28, 2020 11:15 AM

To: maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>; jason.farr@hamilton.ca <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>; nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>; sam.merulla@hamilton.ca <sam.merulla@hamilton.ca>; chad.collins@hamilton.ca <chad.collins@hamilton.ca>; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>; ward8@hamilton.ca <ward8@hamilton.ca>; brad.clark@hamilton.ca <brad.clark@hamilton.ca>; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca <maria.pearson@hamilton.ca>; brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca <brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca>; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca <lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca>; arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca <arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca>; terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca <terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca>; judi.partridge@hamilton.ca <judi.partridge@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Regarding Recommendation to Remove Mr. Kroetsch from LGBTQ Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors:

The recommendation made in the Integrity Commissioner's final report (following a complaint filed in March of this year) to remove Cameron Kroetsch from his position as volunteer Chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee is beyond unacceptable, and is a clear abuse of power and privilege.

This is the first time that council has voted to use the Integrity Commission – set up to investigate complaints against Council – to investigate and now attempt to oust a citizen from a volunteer position. The investigation was conducted during a pandemic, and was prioritized over 14 complaints against Council, strongly suggesting intention on the part of the Commission and the Council to silence Mr. Kroetsch, and the voices of the many Hamiltonians who are so often unheard by their institutions and elected officials. Critical feedback from the citizenry is essential in governance, and I for one am not interested in supporting a Council that is unwilling to hear such feedback, and that responds in such an unprecedented, punitive, and abusive manner.

As a concerned Hamiltonian, I strongly urge you to carefully consider the message this action, if taken, of removing Mr. Kroetsch from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee will send to all Hamiltonians, including those who sit on other advisory committees, and especially to all members of oppressed communities in Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Dana Hansen