

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Item 4.8

Name of Individual: Ashley Daniels

Reason(s) for delegation request:

Mayor and members of council:

I am writing today to express my profound disappointment in how the chair of Hamilton's LGBTQ advisory committee, Cameron Kroetsch, has been treated.

It has long been known by Hamilton's LGBTQ community that our local government is not doing enough to uplift LGBTQ people, and is in some cases making things worse. The fact that a complaint was lodged against Kroetsch by this council is, quite clearly, making things worse. How can progress be made when critiques of government are ignored and censured? The LGBTQ community has good reason to be mistrustful of this council and Hamilton's municipal government in general. This is why there is a need for an LGBTQ advisory committee in the first place.

Cameron Kroetsch was publicly critical of this council. He informed Hamiltonians of issues. He did a service to not just LGBTQ Hamiltonians, but all residents by addressing intersectional issues of white supremacy and policing. How can the chair of an advisory committee possibly not have the right to advise the community he serves?

Perfection is expected of marginalized people when advocating for themselves and their communities, but even if they do everything right, their truth gets buried in some report to be ignored, never acted on. I applaud Mr. Kroetsch for not letting important issues in this city meekly fade into the background noise of bureaucratic processes.

Members of this very council have made and continue to make comments that are wildly and shockingly inappropriate. Where is the 'appropriate behaviour' from you? How is a radio interview about public affairs anathema, but threatening street outreach doctors with lawsuits is perfectly acceptable? How is a single Twitter post a matter of official censure, but not the near-constant bile expressed by members of this council on social media and in official council meetings?

The censure of Cameron Kroetsch is shameful. This council must clean up its act.

Sincerely,
Ashley Daniels, M.Ed.