

I'm thankful to have this opportunity, and the Committee's time, to speak about the impact of what has happened over the past 6 months and City Council's decision to issue a formal reprimand against me as a member of this Committee.

I will not be responding to specific allegations today, the Integrity Commissioner's report, or other things that I have already been clear about in public personally. I do think, however, that it is important, in this forum, to speak about the impact that City Council's decision has had and will continue to have on citizens who volunteer their time on Advisory Committees.

The actions of City Council have sent a deeply chilling message to me and many others who have reached out to express their concerns, fears, and apprehensions about democratic participation in their local government.

In May of 2019, the members of our Committee, at that time, in good faith and in public, passed a motion recommending that City Hall take action to address what we considered systemic, individual, and, we felt, serious concerns that had real impacts on members of Two Spirit, LGBTQIA+, and other marginalized communities.

As members of a Committee appointed to represent individuals in some of those communities, we felt it was our responsibility, and our obligation as part of this Committee's mandate, to make our concerns known to City Council.

It's my opinion that censoring those concerns, for whatever reasons, must not come at the expense of limiting the rights of individuals who wish to express a dissenting view. I am confident that had this Committee's advice or commentary to City Council been supportive or complimentary that I would not be facing this public reprimand.

I also want to take a moment to express my solidarity with the members of this Committee. My public statements and actions have never deviated from the publicly expressed wishes, discussions, decisions, or recommendations of this Committee. I respect the lived experience, advice, and thoughtfulness that is shared at every one of our meetings and I am proud to work with the members of this Committee.

I value this Committee's ability to speak truth to power and I will continue to advocate for that right as long as I remain a member and definitely as long as this Committee wishes me to be its Chair. I continue to appreciate and be uplifted by the support I and this Committee have received from the public and thank this Committee, once again, for its time.