

Hi again – for those of you who may not have been with us the last time I was here in November my name is Jennifer Valeri and I am here with you to discuss the installation of 2 rainbow crosswalks in Waterdown. My daughter was the victim of a hate crime in 2021 and together with the support of our community, and The Hamilton Police department we have rebounded well. We were able to give away more than 250 pride flags at an event held in August, and immediately began work on other initiatives – one of which brought me to your committee. The crosswalks.

I expressed last time, and believe the city heard me clearly, when I advocated for having this committee involved in the beginning stages of all applicable projects. And when I say applicable, I by no means dictate that one person should set that standard. I believe that the committee should be able to be sought and to seek out projects to have input on in meaningful ways. A delay in my project allowed me time to consider the suggestions of your members carefully and thoroughly, and that is why I join you again here today.

Thank you for allowing me to come and be a part of your meeting again. I was very appreciative of the feedback from our last meeting. I hope you all were able to hear my sincerity in wanting to make sure I was the best ally I could be in putting this project together. With your input I immediately, along with the help of the city staff endeavoured to bring change to our design. I heard loud and clear that the flag is evolving and that representing the trans community is an important endeavour. Given that these two crosswalks will welcome students into our YMCA, elementary and high school getting the design to a place of explicit inclusivity is of the utmost importance.



I now would love to again hear from committee members on two items:

1. Input on the design, and if it meets the needs of community in the broadest sense
2. Input on an appropriate unveiling event for community, including a thoughtful way to potentially include Hamilton Police in that they have been so supportive of my family

Sincerely,

The Valeri Family of Waterdown