

Ward 10

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September 10, 2012

To: Mayor Ford & the Executive Committee Members

Re: Motion re Executive Committee item Ex. 22.4 Review of the City of Toronto's Policies on Anti-Discrimination

The City of Toronto, as part of its grants program, chooses on an annual basis to provide financial support to enhance "major cultural organizations" that are recognized as essential cultural ambassadors and infrastructure for the City, and for cultural attractions that have a significant impact for the benefit of Torontonians and toward cultural tourism enhancement.

The Culture website (<http://www.toronto.ca/culture/grants.htm>) outlines the following with respect to grants:

"The City of Toronto Grants Policy states that grant programs are a strategic tool used to achieve the City's social, economic and cultural goals. These funding programs represent a form of partnership with community based organizations which in turn contribute significantly to the goals in relation to community capacity, equitable access, well being, diversity, civic participation and civic cohesion."

However, for the third year in a row, the public purposes behind the funding of the Pride Parade and the benefits of this event to the community and the City of Toronto have been undermined by the divisive and offensive participation (or threatened participation) of the organization known as Queers Against Israeli Apartheid (QuAIA) in the Pride Parade.

In June 2012 Council passed two additional motions stating that:

"City Council reaffirm its recognition of Pride Toronto as a significant cultural event that strongly promotes the ideals of tolerance and diversity, but condemn the use of the term "Israeli Apartheid" which undermines these values and also diminishes the suffering experienced by individuals during the apartheid regime in South Africa."

And:

1. City Council recognize the economic, social and cultural value of Pride as a major cultural event in the City of Toronto.
2. City Council confirm it does not endorse the political positions of any single group or organization participating in the Pride Festival and Parade.

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While staff have taken steps to review City of Toronto's anti-discrimination and access and equity legislations and policies; clarified the discrimination complaints handling process; and amended the Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Discrimination Legislation, it is recommended that staff also conduct appropriate review and amendment of the City Grants policy and its related grants guidelines and use of space guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Pasternak', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn blue oval.

James Pasternak
Councillor, Ward 10