

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM39.24	ACTION			Ward:All
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Reaffirming Toronto's Strong Support for Freedom of Religion and Expression - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council reaffirm its support for freedom of religion and expression, and, further state its opposition to any legislation that would restrict or prohibit such freedoms. By doing so, Toronto states its position that the City continues to be a source of worldwide inspiration.

Summary

Recently, the Government of Quebec proposed legislation that would prohibit public employees from wearing visible religious symbols in the workplace. This so called "values charter" would ban such items as turbans, kippahs, hijabs and visible crucifixes.

As one of the world's most diverse cities, and in keeping with our motto "Diversity Our Strength", it is incumbent upon Council to assure residents and visitors to Toronto that our City will always welcome people of all faiths, and protect their freedom of religion and expression.

(Submitted to City Council on October 8 and 9, 2013 as MM39.24)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.24