
City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM32.21	ACTION			Ward:All
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Report request on the Feasibility of Banning the display/use of the Confederate flag on any City property and at events - by Councillor Neethan Shan, 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 Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager and the City Solicitor to report on the feasibility of banning the display/use of the Confederate flag on any City property and at events.

Summary

The issue regards the display/use of the Confederate flag on any City property and at events.

In Scarborough this past summer, a featured car at the Highland Creek Festival had a Confederate flag – a clear symbol of hate - prominently displayed on it.

What was concerning was that the issue was never properly responded to. Not from festival officials when a resident at the festival raised her concerns to them, and not from the City of Toronto, that seems to not have a clear set of policies or regulations regarding the use of the Confederate flag.

As elected officials our priority must be to create a safe and inclusive environment in all public spaces for all of our community members.

The display of Confederate flags in a public community festival is a serious issue which deserves a serious answer from City Council.

Appropriate and adequate response from elected representatives is necessary to stop any forms of hate. Together, we must support residents who are standing up against hateful symbols, racism and other forms of discrimination.

Holding ourselves accountable is an important step if we want to promote diversity and inclusion.

In the interest of the diverse communities of Scarborough and Toronto, we need to come together to ensure that all residents of our City are protected from symbols of hate, like the Confederate flag, that represents a legacy of violence, discrimination, and racism.

Toronto is one of the most multicultural cities in the world. It is time for the City to take leadership to ensure that all residents feel an equal sense of belonging, without having to face symbols of hatred and intolerance in their own communities, especially at community events that are supported by the City of Toronto.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.21