



Councillor
James Pasternak
York Centre

Toronto City Hall
City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, 2nd Floor, A22
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

September 29, 2023

John Elvidge
City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Administrative Inquiry: Pink Floyd Exhibition

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

I am submitting this Administrative Inquiry (under Municipal Code S27-7.11) to obtain information regarding The Pink Floyd Exhibition which took place at the Better Living Centre at Exhibition Place from August 18-October 1, 2023.

The rock band Pink Floyd, sold 245 million albums. While many argue that it is one of the most successful rock bands, one of its founding members included Roger Waters. The exhibit glorified Pink Floyd and in doing so, built attention and praise for Roger Waters. Shockingly, there are extensive examples of Mr. Waters making racist and hateful comments and taking hateful actions in his performances and in private conversations. Most of these slurs are anti-Semitic.

In February, 2023 the German city of Frankfurt cancelled a Roger Waters' concert, calling him one of the "most widely-known antisemites" in the world.

In May 2023, the US State Departments stated that "The artist in question [Roger Waters] has a long track record of using anti-Semitic tropes to denigrate Jewish people." A new documentary called *The Dark Side of Roger Waters*, explores allegations of antisemitism against the Pink Floyd co-founder and contains testimonials of Roger Waters' hateful and anti-Semitic language.

The US based Anti-Defamation League stated, "[Roger Waters'] activism has increasingly been characterized as playing into anti-Semitic tropes, including those about Jewish or "Zionist" power; comparing Israel to Nazi Germany; and disparaging anyone who conveys even tangential support for Israel's existence.

Michael Levitt, the president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies wrote in the Toronto Star, in June, 2023 that "many Jews and non-Jews around the world are raising their voices in condemnation of Waters' latest display of odious conduct." Accompanying the article was a recent picture of Roger Waters wearing a "Nazi-inspired" uniform.

In order to receive permits for any exhibit on City of Toronto property, users of city space must commit to and sign the City of Toronto anti-discrimination policy.

Did Exhibition Place and the group organizing The Pink Floyd Exhibition, sign the City of Toronto antidiscrimination policy?



Did the Pink Floyd Exhibition, despite its attempts to distance itself from the hateful behaviour of Roger Waters, violate the City of Toronto anti-discrimination policy?

Sincerely,



Councillor James Pasternak
Toronto - Ward 6, York Centre
Chair, North York Community Council