



McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association  
c/o MUFA (McMaster University Faculty Association)  
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June 28th, 2019

Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
Hamilton City Hall  
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing in my capacity as President of the McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association. We represent the academic librarians of McMaster University and maintain a strong professional commitment to civil liberties and a strong ethical commitment to plurality, equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice. We applaud your past spoken and written commitments to Hamilton's 2SLGBTQ+ community, so we are reaching out in a spirit of solidarity to encourage you and Hamilton Council to honour these commitments during a time of crisis for the city.

We must express our collective dismay over the City's handling of, and subsequent deliberations over, the far right's outburst of violence and harassment at Hamilton's Pride celebrations. It is abundantly clear that Hamilton Pride, and by extension its 2SLGBTQ+ community, was deliberately targeted for violence intended at sowing division & hatred in our community. Rather than recognise and respond to this shameful state of affairs, the City has chosen to obfuscate, equivocate, and, through its inaction and rhetoric, encourage further violence against our 2SLGBTQ+ community in the future. Of particular concern are the recent arrests of 2SLGBTQ+ community members on seemingly trivial charges when identifiable members of extremist groups who violently attacked our community continue to walk free. To describe this state of affairs as "bad optics" would be an understatement.

Excuses have ranged from the petty ("the police service's ability to protect the Pride community is contingent on the police service being invited to Pride" to echo comments by Chief Girt) to the absurd ("Pride supporters who resist violence at the hands of extremists are in fact to blame for it," to paraphrase Cllr. Merulla's comments in Council this week). This is unacceptable. The City's seeming indifference to the rise of hate groups in our city can only lead to increased violence against the most vulnerable members of our community.

This unfolding debacle has been painful to watch. Members of Hamilton's 2SLGBTQ+ have written in clear terms about what they need from this city to feel safe and included. Rather than rehash their concerns, we would direct your attention to the excellent letters and statements written by TransParent Hamilton, Cameron Kroetsch, Myke Hutchings, and others. We stand in solidarity with these voices.

We look forward to living in a city that demonstrates a genuine commitment to being "the best place to raise a child". Such a city would be one in which citizens feel safe regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We urge you to make real the City's spoken commitments to seeing this become a reality.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myron Groover", is written over a horizontal line.

Myron Groover  
President, McMaster University Academic Librarians' Association