EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MOTION

Minute No. 565
Moved by Councillor Nason,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS in 2019 the Province of Quebec enacted Bill 21 (An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State) which prohibits public servants from wearing religious symbols including turbans, hijabs, kippahs, the cross and many others;

AND WHEREAS religious wear in certain traditions is considered an important act of devotion and is not a mere symbol of religious identity;

AND WHEREAS the wearing of religiously-mandated signs or clothing as/or religious symbols is a fundamental right in the exercise of "freedom of thought, conscience and religion," as written in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and does not in any way diminish the ability of public servants to fulfill their duties;

AND WHEREAS restricting the ability of citizens from wearing religious symbols affects all components of society: first nations, settlers and immigrants;

AND WHEREAS Freedom of religion in Canada is protected by the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Human Rights Act;

AND WHEREAS The City of Winnipeg stands firmly to support religious freedom as this is aligned with the Canadian Charter of Human Rights;

AND WHEREAS a secular and religiously neutral state is achieved by treating all citizens fairly through unbiased governance structures that do not favor one religion over another;

AND WHEREAS forcing citizens to abandon certain cultural and religious practices will create an environment that fosters intolerance and inequity;

AND WHEREAS Bill 21 is a divisive law that perpetuates exclusion, discrimination, and class division by increasing systematic barriers to employment for religious groups;

AND WHEREAS The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), the World Sikh Organization (WSO) and others have initiated a constitutional challenge against Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg City Council is a signatory of The Declaration to join the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (2006);

Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion (continued):

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg is a multicultural, socially diverse, and inclusive city that is home to many different faiths, religions, genders, languages, and cultures;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg takes its role as a human rights city and the home of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights seriously;

AND WHEREAS Government has an important role in protecting our shared values of tolerance and diversity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Winnipeg City Council oppose Quebec's Bill 21, and support in principle, the constitutional challenge to Bill 21, and continue to support building a welcoming city where everyone has access to opportunity and prosperity.

Moved by Councillor Nason,

That Rule 11 of the Procedure By-law be suspended in order to alter the sequence of the agenda to consider introducing the Notice of Motion Moved by Councillor Nason and Seconded by Councillor Lukes regarding Quebec Bill 21 prior to Delegations being heard.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

Councillor Lukes called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 15

Nay: Councillor Eadie. 1

and the motion to suspend Rule 11 was declared carried.

Moved by Councillor Nason,

That Rule 17(1) of the Procedure By-law be suspended in order to allow discussion of the motion moved by Councillor Nason and Seconded by Councillor Lukes at today's meeting rather than being referred to the next meeting of Council.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

Councillor Lukes called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion (continued):

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 15

Nay: Councillor Gillingham. 1

and the motion to suspend Rule 17(1) was declared carried.

Moved by Councillor Nason,

That Rule 38(2) of the Procedure By-law relating to the exercise of power and discharge of duties not within the jurisdiction of Council be suspended, in order that Council may deal with the motion.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

Councillor Lukes called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 16

Nay: 0

and the motion to suspend Rule 38(2) was declared carried.

The Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Nason and Seconded by Councillor Lukes was put.

The motion for adoption was put.

Councillor Lukes called for the yeas and nays as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 16

Nay: 0