DAVID GRANT SUBMISSION

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From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 10:11 AM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Winnipeg.ca : Submit communications to Council / Register in delegation

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Delegation Information
Committee: Council
Committee - other:
Agenda Item: #1

Service Inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference:
Comments in writing: Learning of this special meeting reminds many folks of a City declaring itself to be a nuclear weapons-free zone. No city welcomes nuclear weapons, and most politicians do not welcome disruption. On the other hand both of these actions are evidence of those with near-absolute power in one lane going out of that lane.

No one needs to go very far back into Winnipeg's history to find examples of protests which were disruptive. Remember that all local protests which disrupt no one are also widely ignored. Are any of you aware of how often residents feeling outrage stand on public steps with signs or loud calls for justice? Probably not, because no one noticed. Since the pandemic began, there have been many disruptive protests here. Some were to raise awareness of middle east politics. Some expressed outrage on FN issues. The most easily ignored were the peaceful protests against the draconian actions of government.

Please remember how city officials reacted to protests supporting the BLM cause in the USA. Some freely spoke in favor of the protest. WPS watched, to avoid confrontation with counter protesters. This is the modern reaction to mildly disruptive protest. This is exactly how the WPS has been reacting to the trucker protest.

I see that Council has not stated a position on the destruction of symbolic property during protests for FN causes, even as the justice system has chosen to not act. That is an important precedent.

Winnipeg has clearly shown that peaceful but disruptive protest is to be tolerated and protected. I believe that the current protest on Broadway fits this category. Police and citizens have many hours of video evidence of generally law abiding behaviour, as they no doubt collected during all recent disruptive protests.

Winnipeg has also clearly shown that in at least one case, a disruptive protest which turns to targeted destruction to make its point, will also be tolerated. I personally see that precedent as problematic, but the precedent has been put on record.

I suggest that Council make a statement in support of the way that their WPS has watched over protests like the current one, and the one in June 2020. The WPS has a very professional and effective NEGOTIATOR team, which has been active to keep the handful of counter protesters on their own part of the Avenue. WPS knows what they are doing. Please support them.
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