

SUBMISSION – VICKI POIRIER

Item 12 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 21, 2026 (Council Member Committee Appointments)

Submitted: Wed, 04/29/2026 - 11:30

Committee you want to address

Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

EPC #12 Councilor assignments

Support or oppose recommendations

I am opposed to the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox

Submit comments in writing

Comments

I have followed city hall meetings for many years. I have taken an active role in volunteer organizations. Russ Wyatt has proven to be the bravest member of council. I do not always agree with his positions on controversial topics, but when I do, his is the only voice of dissent on Council.

There is a reason that the law limits the Council's power to remove a member elected to serve on Council. At meetings anywhere, speaking in dissent too often leads to being called an enemy by those in charge. I have seen bullying in such situations. I have seen unjust expulsions. Manitoba law protects those elected to serve the public interest. The law protects them from being victims of simple disagreement, and the vengeance that can result. I have seen vengeance result in multiple removals from elected office, each such removal violating the law. That is an outcome no one should be proud of. Everyone who punishes the innocent is guilty themselves.

That an evening out has resulted in serious criminal charges has shocked some. We are all living in the mee-too era. In some cases that is good. This has become an era when principles of basic justice are ignored. Dates can end badly in a lot of different ways. The justice system has its flaws, but can still decide innocence or guilt. Until the courts have decided, no one should be punished. Those Councilors and the public, who will have to wait for the courts, may be disappointed. The fact that courts in Winnipeg take years to decide the simplest matters is not the fault of anyone at city hall. Those managing the justice system have failed in that regard. Officials in Ottawa and Winnipeg should drastically reduce delays. Russ is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Therefore you should treat him as innocent. In a civilized society, we do not punish innocent people. The law says not to do so. Anyone who feels the need to go beyond the sanctions in the law may not deserve to be in charge.

I wish you all the best Mr. Wyatt. Good luck and stay strong.

Personal information

First name

Vicki

Last name

Poirier