

From: Ntsiki Mitchell [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 1:11 PM

To: Pacheco, Sonya <Sonya.Pacheco@brampton.ca>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Re: consent to include this letter on the agenda, which will be published on the City's website.

Hi Sonia

I am writing as both a concerned parent and an advocate for children's safety and well-being in our community. Recently, I learned about the city's decision to replace men's, women's, and family changing rooms at our Brampton recreation centres with a single "all-inclusive" changing room. I share deep concerns with many other parents regarding the implications of this change on the safety and comfort of our children.

Inclusivity is a value we all support, and it's essential to design public spaces that accommodate everyone's needs. However, the current implementation of shared all-inclusive changing rooms raises significant privacy and safety issues. Our children deserve to feel secure and protected, especially in spaces where they may be vulnerable.

There have been several distressing incidents reported since this change was made. In our community, 11 children, including the daughter of a fellow parent, were exposed to inappropriate situations involving adult men undressing in the same space. Furthermore, a man was recently arrested at Earnscliffe for voyeurism, highlighting the real risks associated with these mixed-gender environments.

While the aim of inclusivity is commendable, we must ensure that it does not come at the cost of safety and privacy. A more effective approach would be to offer a combination of private, secure changing rooms for families and individuals of all genders, alongside traditional single-gender spaces. This would provide a truly inclusive solution, catering to the diverse needs of all users while ensuring the safety and comfort of children and vulnerable individuals.

One of the parents has been advocating on this issue for over a year and now has the opportunity to present their case to the city through a formal delegation. I fully support their efforts and urge the city to reconsider the current policy. Ensuring the safety and comfort of our recreational facilities is a responsibility we all share, and it is vital that we address these issues promptly and effectively.

I will be closely following this matter and am eager to see a resolution that upholds the values of both safety and inclusivity. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your commitment to making our community a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Ntsiki Mitchell R.E C.E