



February 26, 2016

His Worship Naheed Nenshi, Mayor
The City of Calgary
Historic City Hall - Office of the Mayor
2nd Floor, 700 Macleod Trail South
Calgary, AB T2G 2M3

Dear Mayor Nenshi,

I am writing to you on behalf of **ready to engage!** and ask that you apologize to our group for your accusations of bullying.

ready to engage! wholeheartedly condemns any and all forms of violence or intimidation and we categorically deny that anyone in our group was involved in such activity.

The information session hosted by The City of Calgary on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Woodcreek Community Centre was a public event. The City of Calgary invited all interested parties to attend and distributed thousands of brochures to local residents. A small number of our group attended and we were vastly outnumbered by Calgarians who are not directly involved with *ready to engage!*

We wish to note that *ready to engage!* hosted an event on January 21st, 2016 at the Calgary Jewish Community Centre in which over a thousand people attended and there were no reports of any inappropriate behaviour. The City of Calgary was invited by *ready to engage!* to attend that event and was given space to present information. Several City representatives did participate. The only allegations of abuse and intimidation towards City employees seems to come from City hosted events over which *ready to engage!* has no control.

Prior to your statements to the press on Wednesday, we were unaware of any issues resulting from any City hosted events. We note that you specifically reference an alleged assault that took place in October 2015. Please note that *ready to engage!* had not been formed at this point in time, and therefore any accusations of our involvement in this alleged incident are totally without merit. I would also like to note that the City's corporate security officers were on site at Tuesday evening's meeting as were most media outlets. If there was abusive behaviour on Tuesday night, why did these individuals in charge of corporate security not report it to the police immediately and why has no video of these alleged offences surfaced to date? Additionally, why did the head administrator not simply shut down the event in the name of public safety?

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www.readytoengage.ca

ready to engage! is a group of concerned citizens who have joined together to give SW Calgarians and other stakeholders a voice on The City's SW Transitway and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. We are in support of well-planned, efficient and cost-effective public transit improvements for all Calgarians.

At the time you made your statement, you indicated that there was an ongoing investigation. To that end, the investigation could not be complete and you could not be in possession of all of the facts. With the greatest of respect, it was incredibly inappropriate to pre-empt the conclusion of any investigation and pronounce findings of fact. If criminal activity occurred, the proper authorities should be notified and a thorough and professional investigation should take place. Once police are involved, it is highly inappropriate for the Mayor to try to introduce evidence into the public domain.

I would also ask that you reconsider your decision to cancel all further public information sessions. Virtual town halls are not a suitable substitute for important face-to-face discussions. In addition, they are subject to manipulation by trolls or others who have no genuine interest in the issues. Further, they are the perfect opportunity to allow City officials to avoid answering honestly by providing pre-prepared responses that are merely talking points rather than providing real and or substantive information.

Lastly, as we have indicated in our media release herewith attached, we are also seeking an apology for your inappropriate and disrespectful comments on social media regarding our concerns about safety and the high pressure gas pipeline. We consider these comments to be a form of bullying and your comments have spawned a number of further inappropriate and disrespectful comments from some of your Council colleagues and senior members of City Administration.

I look forward to hearing back from you. You can reach me at: info@readytonengage.ca.

Sincerely,



Maurice Tims

Chair, ready to engage!

Attachment: Media Release - ready to engage! (February 25, 2016)

C: Councillor Ward Sutherland, The City of Calgary, Ward 1
Councillor Joe Magliocca, The City of Calgary, Ward 2
Councillor Jim Stevenson, The City of Calgary, Ward 3
Councillor Sean Chu, The City of Calgary, Ward 4
Councillor Ray Jones, The City of Calgary, Ward 5
Councillor Richard Pootmans, The City of Calgary, Ward 6
Councillor Druh Farrell, The City of Calgary, Ward 7
Councillor Evan Woolley, The City of Calgary, Ward 8
Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra, The City of Calgary, Ward 9
Councillor Andre Chabot, The City of Calgary, Ward 10
Councillor Brian Pincott, The City of Calgary, Ward 11
Councillor Shane Keating, The City of Calgary, Ward 12
Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart, The City of Calgary, Ward 13
Councillor Peter Demong, The City of Calgary, Ward 14
Mr. Jeff Fielding, City Manager & CAO, The City of Calgary
Mr. Malcolm (Mac) Logan, General Manager, Transportation
Mr. Doug Morgan, General Manager, Calgary Transit

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