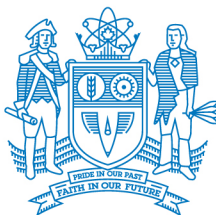


**Sue McFadden**  
Councillor, Ward 10  
T 905-896-5010  
F 905-896-5863  
sue.mcfadden@mississauga.ca



**City of Mississauga**  
300 City Centre Drive  
MISSISSAUGA ON L5B 3C1  
mississauga.ca  
mississaugaward10.ca

May 6, 2020

## STATEMENT ON BROADCASTING EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

For Immediate Release –

At our Council meeting earlier today, I put forward a motion requesting that Council refer the matter of broadcasting audible expressions of faith to the committee established by Council to deal with exactly these types of matters — the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DIAC), which I co-chair with Councillor Ron Starr.

Following a thoughtful discussion today, direction was given by unanimous consent of Council to do just that.

I am grateful for my Council colleagues and the many residents of my ward and across the city who understood and supported the intent of this motion: to provide an additional forum for a wider discussion on an issue of public interest.

Last week, as a symbolic gesture of compassion during the COVID-19 outbreak, our Council approved a temporary change to the enforcement of the City's Noise Control Bylaw to allow the amplified broadcasting of the Call to Prayer for those marking the holy month of Ramadan during a period when public gatherings are prohibited. The Call would occur no more than once a day at sunset for up to five minutes only during Ramadan (until May 24, 2020).

Many people mistook my motion today as a recommendation to reverse that decision. I take exception to the misrepresentation and mischaracterization of the motion as “intolerant” and “anti-diversity” and especially the campaign launched against me to harm my reputation and discredit me. I have always and will continue to listen to and support the residents of my constituency who have elected me to represent them to the best of my ability.

My motion today met the objective of sparking a comprehensive discussion among my fellow Councillors, taking a sober second look at how we arrived at last week's decision on the Muslim Call to Prayer, and referring the matter to DIAC for further consideration.

Sadly, this issue has divided our city at a time when we most need to come together during these unusual and challenging times. I believe this motion and today's discussion helped bring clarity to this temporary measure and I am hopeful this will create a sense of compassion, tolerance and inclusiveness among all people regardless of faith or background.

Kindest regards,

Sue McFadden  
Councillor, Ward 10 Mississauga