



Motion: November 13th, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Dipika Damerla
Seconded by: Councillor Natalie Hart

WHEREAS acts of intimidation against places of worship of all faiths are on the rise, including most recently the protests and attack on the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, followed by counter protests at both the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Malton and the Hindu Sabha Mandir that resulted in a number of charges laid with more to come;

AND WHEREAS, such protests in front of places of worship even when peaceful can create an intimidating barrier that has to be passed in order to access the place of worship;

AND WHEREAS, in 2023, Calgary City Council passed the Safe and Inclusive Access By-law, which is designed to help ensure safe and inclusive access to municipal recreation facilities and libraries by providing 100-metre "access zones" around these facilities;

AND WHEREAS, the right to protest peacefully has to be balanced with the right to be able to visit places of worship without intimidation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) Council direct staff to consider the feasibility of implementing a by-law that prohibits demonstrations within 100 meters, or within reasonable distance, of places of worship at the earliest possible time.