

April 2, 2026

Hon. Sean Fraser

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Legislative Building
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Fraser:

Re: Notice of Motion, Councillor C. James re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on March 25, 2026, approved the following motion:

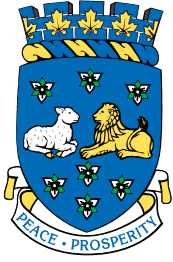
Whereas the Region of Waterloo's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, developed under the requirements of the Community Safety and Policing Act, identifies systemic racism, hate, and discrimination as critical risk factors impacting community safety, belonging, and well-being;

And whereas the display of a noose is widely recognized as a symbol of racial terror, violence, and intimidation, particularly against Black communities, rooted in the history of anti-Black racism;

And whereas symbols of hate, when displayed publicly, contribute to fear, trauma, and exclusion, and undermine the Region's commitments to equity, inclusion, and proactive prevention within its Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

And whereas the Government of Canada has introduced Bill C-9 to strengthen tools to address hate-motivated offences, including provisions related to the public display of certain hate symbols;

And whereas the current draft of Bill C-9 does not explicitly include the noose as a prohibited symbol, despite its well-



documented use as an instrument of racial intimidation and its direct relevance to community safety and well-being outcomes;

And whereas addressing hate symbols through federal legislation complements municipal efforts by strengthening upstream prevention, reducing harm, and supporting safer, more inclusive communities;

Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1. The Regional Municipality of Waterloo formally request that the Government of Canada amend Bill C-9 to explicitly include the noose as a prohibited hate symbol within the legislation;**
- 2. This motion be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for endorsement and support as a measure that strengthens community safety and well-being across jurisdictions.**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact Councillor C. James, CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca.

Regards,

Michael Oliveri
Legislative Services Specialist
Region of Waterloo

cc: All Ontario Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)