

**From:** Bernice Couto

**Sent:** Saturday, March 2, 2024 1:06 PM

**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding item 8.4, 4 (4.1) Regulation of the Display of Graphic Images that is on the Council Agenda for March 5th, 2024

Hello - I am writing today, as a resident in London Ontario (Ward 4) regarding item 8.4, 4 (4.1) Regulation of the Display of Graphic Images that is on the Council Agenda for March 5th, 2024.

In the Feb. 20th meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) there was a Motion that the staff report be referred back to Civic Administrations to be directed to bring forward a by-law with respect to the Regulation of the Display of Graphic Images to a future meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee for consideration by the end of Q2, 2024. And I urge that the City of London mayor and city councillors vote to refer the staff report from the CPSC mtg. of Feb. 20, 2024 back to City Staff.

I urge this because a by-law against graphic anti-abortion signs will violate Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedom. I understand that the City must show that the by-law is furtherance of legitimate and substantial objective, and this requirement is clearly met because of the harm and distress caused to residents by the display of these graphic images. The City is well within its powers to enact by-laws that will help lessen harm to residents.

Further, Council has already successfully passed a by-law that restricts the delivery of flyers with graphic images of alleged aborted fetuses. The same can be done with a by-law that restricts the display of graphic anti-abortion images on handheld signs, A-frame posters and temporality erected signs/posters.

I also want to note that this isn't a pro-choice/anti-choice issue, it is an issue about graphic images and the harm that they cause to residents. I give permission for my submission to be added to the council agenda.

Cheers,  
Bernice Couto