WHEREAS in 2019 the Province of Quebec enacted Bill 21 (An Act Respecting the Laicity of the State) which prohibits public servants from wearing religious symbols including turbans, hijabs, yarmulke, the cross and many others;

AND WHEREAS Mississauga is a multicultural, socially diverse, and inclusive city that is home to many different faiths, religions, genders, languages, and cultures;

AND WHEREAS the wearing of signs or clothing as a religious symbol is a fundamental right in the exercise of "freedom of thought, conscience and religion," as written in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

AND WHEREAS Freedom of religion in Canada is protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Human Rights Act;

AND WHEREAS The City of Mississauga stands firmly to support religious freedom as this is aligned with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

AND WHEREAS Government has an important role in protecting our shared values of tolerance and diversity;

AND WHEREAS Mississauga City Council and the Corporation of the City of Mississauga have time and again affirmed our commitment to diversity, equity, and the values of tolerance, diversity, and inclusion;

MISSISSAUGA

Date: _____ October 23, 2019 _____

Moved by: _____ Parrish _____

Seconded by: _____ Chris Fonseca _____

AND WHEREAS a secular and religiously neutral state is achieved by treating all citizens fairly through unbiased governance structures that do not favour one religion over another;

AND WHEREAS forcing citizens to abandon certain cultural and religious practices will only serve to create an environment that fosters intolerance and inequity;

AND WHEREAS Bill 21 is a divisive law that perpetuates exclusion, discrimination, and class division by increasing systematic barriers to employment for religious groups;

AND WHEREAS The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), the World Sikh Organization (WSO), and others have initiated a constitutional challenge against Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS Mississauga is a welcoming community that provides equal opportunities to people from across Canada and the world;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary recently passed a resolution to support a nationwide initiative with the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination to address the harms of Bill 21, and its impact on the unity, reputation and well-being of Canada;

AND WHEREAS on October 10, 2019, the Council of the Region of Peel passed a motion expressing opposition to Bill 21;

AND WHEREAS this is an issue of national importance, with ramifications across our country;

MISSISSAUGA

Date: October 23, 2019

Moved by: _C.Parrish_

Seconded by: _Chris Fonseca_

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mississauga City Council opposes Quebec's Bill 21 and continues to support building a welcoming city where everyone has access to opportunity and prosperity.

AND That the City of Mississauga support in principle the legal challenge against the discrimination of freedom of religion proposed in Quebec's Bill 21;

AND that Mississauga Council endorse the nationwide initiative proposed by Calgary City Council in conjunction with the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination that addresses the harms of Bill 21, and its impact to the unity, reputation and well-being of Canada;

AND that City Council calls on the federal government to challenge Bill 21.

Recorded Vote	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mayor B. Crombie			✓	
Councillor S. Dasko	✓			
Councillor K. Ras	✓			
Councillor C. Fonseca	✓			
Councillor J. Kovac	✓			
Councillor C. Parrish	✓			
Councillor R. Starr	✓			
Councillor D. Damerla	✓			
Councillor M. Mahoney	✓			
Councillor P. Saito	✓			
Councillor S. McFadden	✓			
Councillor G. Carlson	✓			

Carried (11, 0, 1-Absent

Carried

Acting Mayor