

## Item 5

### Matters for Tabling

#### 5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be tabled.

#### Recommendation

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

#### 5.2 Petition

##### **Reverse Sydney Mayor's Decision to Prohibit the Town Hall being Lit with White and Blue**

Councillor Jarrett gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 20 November 2023, she will table and speak to a petition (with 1,129 signatures) with the following terms:

After an aborted attempt on October 9th to light up the Sydney Opera House due to the unauthorised mass of aggressive anti Israel protesters the mayor Clover Moore has prohibited a further attempt to have a public, peaceful and inclusive solidarity event at an illuminated Town Hall in Israel's colours.

I have written to the lord mayor but as yet have not received any response.

This is my letter to the mayor, Clover Moore.

Thank you for signing this petition.

Dear Lord Mayor,

I am a long term Sydney resident of Jewish Israeli heritage. My parents, grandparents and great-grandparents got married in the Great Synagogue in Elizabeth Street and my great uncle David electrified the beautiful lights there.

I am writing to you as I am somewhat distressed at the news that you will forbid the Israeli colours to be projected onto the Town Hall despite the fact that this has been done in most other Australian cities and many cities around the world.

What an embarrassing moment for the City of Sydney.

Not only embarrassing but very upsetting to the Jewish and Israeli communities both in COS and suburbs.

On a personal level I have been heartbroken by the events in Israel including the loss of my children's beautiful 27 year old cousin.

My sister, brother and 92 year old mother have spent most of the past two weeks in their safe rooms. Fortunately they are not in the south or north of the country where most of the Hamas rockets are landing.

I did believe at the time that projecting the flag onto the Opera House was a heartfelt and comforting gesture. I unwittingly went to the Opera House on that fateful evening. I was by myself and unaware of the warnings for members of the Jewish community to stay away for our own safety. It was one of the most frightening experiences in my sixty five years! It was extremely disappointing to see the projection of the SOH sails fizzle out before they even began as the crowd grew more and more aggressive.

I note in the Council's mission statement that you purportedly "celebrate our diversity, finding ways for everyone to belong" and that you "listen to the voices of others".

In denying a community that acts with dignity and respect; a community that has contributed in endless ways since white settlement and a community that has demonstrated that even at times of heightened emotions we proceed both privately and publicly in a peaceful and appropriate manner, you deny the Jewish and Israel communities the right to be fully participating members of the City of Sydney.

I urge you to reconsider this very brash and insulting decision and allow us to respectfully show our solidarity and pain.

**Recommendation**

It is resolved that the Petition be received and noted.

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