

Item 14.9

Notices of Motion

Drag Queen Storytime in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the City's 2018 Community Wellbeing Survey indicated 21.3 per cent of respondents identified as being part of the LGBTQIA+ community;
 - (ii) the City of Sydney is the home for the largest LGBTQIA+ community across Australia;
 - (iii) Drag Queen Storytime is a children's event started in 2015 in San Francisco, aiming to promote diversity within a community;
 - (iv) the Storytime event is directed at children between the ages of three to six, hosted by drag queens who read children's picture books in public libraries;
 - (v) Drag Queen Storytime is a fun and inclusive event that celebrates the diversity we have within the City of Sydney;
 - (vi) Drag Queen Storytime is especially important for children in rainbow families who may not see themselves represented in mainstream media;
 - (vii) Rainbow Families is a charity that helps to support and advocate for LGBTQIA+ parents and families, running programs and support for families at every stage of their journey;
 - (viii) in March 2024, the Inner West Council unanimously resolved to work with Rainbow Families to present a series of Drag Queen Storytime events at an Inner West Council library, ensuring community groups continue to feel safe, connected and supported;
 - (ix) the Inner West Council now regularly hosts a series of Drag Queen Storytime events;
 - (x) the City of Sydney has previously hosted and promoted successful Rainbow Families Drag Queen Storytime events, but there are no future events listed;
 - (xi) a range of Drag Queen Storytime events have had to be cancelled due to groups of extremists threatening the safety of organisers and participants; and
 - (xii) everyone should feel safe, welcome and represented within the City of Sydney; and

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) allocate funding for City run Drag Queen Storytime sessions in the 2024/25 City budget;
 - (ii) guarantee the City run a series of Drag Queen Storytimes at all City of Sydney libraries; and
 - (iii) report back to Councillors with progress of the above in the CEO Update.

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