

NM2009 – September 29

KIRPAN POLICIES AT CIVIC ENTITIES

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

WHEREAS 2500 people attended a Gurdas Maan concert on Sunday, August 2, 2009 at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre (CTCC);

AND WHEREAS the Kirpan (ceremonial sword) has religious significance whereby baptized Sikhs are obligated to wear the Kirpan at all times;

AND WHEREAS the CTCC management determined not to permit Kirpans to be worn into the event and directed security guards to search those entering for Kirpans;

AND WHEREAS this discriminatory action significantly slowed the crowds from entering the venue with the concert starting, and leaving nearly 500 attendees waiting in line and ticket holders both inside and outside the venue becoming increasingly agitated;

AND WHEREAS pay-duty police officers were concerned with the volatility of the incident and for public safety with families and children in the crowd, and conveyed their concerns to the head of Security at CTCC, with CTCC management and Security then deciding to shut the concert down;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary has adopted the CCMARD Charter that includes ten principles by which we measure our progress toward eliminating discriminatory practices both within the City of Calgary and within civic entities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration conduct a review of Kirpan policies in City of Calgary civic entities and, in consultation with them, report back through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than March 2010, with recommendations to avoid similar incidents in the future.



Alderman Colley-Urquhart