



Jennifer Wyness, Ward 2 Councillor

Installation of Home Security System for Councillors

In January 2022, there has been an increase of protests at the homes of Alberta politicians. These protests involved anti-vaccine and anti-mask demonstrations, two of which were held at Mayor Gondek and Councillor Carra's homes.

In a vote of 8-7, Council had voted to have the City provide home security systems and installation worth up to \$8,000 plus \$100 in additional monthly monitoring fees to Councillors who want them. I had huge concerns with this motion, and was one of the Councillors who voted no, as I strongly believe Council was elected to dedicate our efforts toward creating and implementing effective measures to protect the citizens of Calgary, not ourselves.

I also took issue with the speed at which this motion was brought to Council. From my perspective, there was nothing urgent about the motion that was presented. My fear was that by deciding to label this motion as urgent, Council may create the perception that our safety is of top priority, while the community's safety is not. Had the motion gone through the proper channels, there would have been nothing to stop Councillors from going out and getting a security system installed for their home. In my view, this was nothing more than a clerical item that did not need to be rushed nor slapped together over the weekend.

I would have preferred to have seen Council take their time on this item and complete the necessary research to think the issue through, and we may have been able to come up with alternate solutions. I would have recommended the implementation of a "protest buffer zone" around all politicians' homes to protect elected officials and their neighbours, as the emotional response triggered is not just felt by only one household.

As I stated before, I strongly believe Council should not be prioritizing ourselves. We should be prioritizing the safety of all Calgarians. This is the rationale of why I voted against.

Jennifer Wyness