From: Birthright, Liz
To: dencc - City Council
Cc: Brooks, Albus - City Council District 9; kniechatlarge@genvergov.org
Subject: re: Chick-fil-A lease renewal at DIA
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 9:42:35 AM

To all City Council Members,

I am certain you all have the best of intentions of building an inclusive community, however your recent comments on the decision whether to renew a lease for Chick-fil-A are deeply concerning. Has it occurred to you that denying the renewal of the lease for Chick-fil-A based on their management's associations or affiliations with religious charities is discriminatory behavior?

It is my opinion that the founder of Chick-fil-A definitely damaged his business when he chose to dispel his opinions publicly. As a result, I now know where their money goes and since I don't agree with the views held by the managing folks of Chick-fil-A, I don't give them my business. That is MY CHOICE. However, I don't believe that just because they don't think like I do, that is a good reason to block them from the opportunity to do business at DIA. If Chick-fil-A were an establishment that did not serve gays (they do, without exception) or did not hire gays (they do, without exception) then perhaps we may have conversations about not renewing their lease based on their discriminatory practices, but ***as a business they do not discriminate –*** SO WHY WOULD YOU, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS?

Again, I do believe you are intending to build a more inclusive community, however making things difficult for Chick-fil-A to do business at DIA goes starkly against that. The message you are sending is that Denver will be inclusive ONLY FOR THOSE WHO THINK THE WAY YOU DO. Are you going to also start making things difficult for businesses who do not belong to your political party, or attend your church, or donate to a charity you don't agree with? Are we now going to require all businesses to disclose their religious / political / moral beliefs and donation histories before we deem them worthy of doing business in our city? Please think and tread carefully… this is a very slippery slope toward an ***EX***clusive society, not an inclusive one, and I personally believe this would be an overreach of our government with a faint hint of fascism.

I really am hopeful that you are trying to make things better for our city, however this situation and your comments surrounding it strikes me - one of your constituents whom you represent - as discriminatory behavior. Chick-fil-A is a profitable business in several locations in Denver, let them renew their lease at DIA and run their business, and let the citizens of Denver choose whether to spend their money there, or not.

Respectfully,
Liz Birthright

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