



**AFFIRMATION OF
OFFICE
ROBBIE NYAGUY**

MINUTES

1 FEBRUARY 2023



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**MINUTES – AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE – ROBBIE
NYAGUY HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2023**

The meeting opened at 6:15pm.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Cunsolo (Chairperson), Cr Baxter, Cr Bond, Cr Clark, Cr Cunsolo, Cr Martin, Cr Pearl, Cr Sirakoff.

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Chris Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Brian Tee, General Manager City Growth and Development, Allison Kenwood, General Manager Community Wellbeing and Inclusion, Lachlan Johnson, General Manager Customer Operations and Infrastructure, Joanne McNeill, General Manager Governance and Organisational Capability.

The City of Port Phillip respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

Chris Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, formally opened the meeting.

2. AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

The Chief Executive Officer invited Robbie Nyaguy to take their affirmation of office and declare that they have read and will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct.

CR ROBBIE NYAGUY

“Firstly, I want to honour and acknowledge that Banff, Canada where I am today, is located on Treaty 7 territory. This is the ancestral territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy: Kainai, Piikani and Siksika as well as the Tsuu T’ina and Stoney First Nations.

The City of Port Phillip and Lake Ward is on the traditional lands of the Yalukut Willam Clan of the Boonerong who I acknowledge as traditional owners. I also pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and, emerging.

Today I am nearly 14,000km away from home and yet I'm still on lands – some stolen, some ceded under duress – in the name of the British King. The scale of this enduring crime is almost overwhelming but must not stop our long march toward reconciliation.

I am steadfast in my commitment to the Bunurong who's lands I was born and raised, and now have the responsibility to represent.

MINUTES - AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE – ROBBIE NYAGUY



I acknowledge first nations country because I know that roots matter. The roots of everyone in our community matters. It indelibly shapes our lives and moulds our character.

I want to share some of my roots tonight so you understand me better.

My roots start in with my ancestors. My mum's family came from Europe some time ago but my dad's parents fled Europe after the Second World War. My Nonno was born in Fiume, Italy and my Nonna was born in Ukmerge, Lithuania. I see myself as Italian and Lithuanian as well as Australian.

My Nonna first arrived in Australia at Station Pier. After marrying my Nonno, they lived over 60 years in Middle Park in the house I now call my home. They loved this place.

Paul Kelly famously sang "I'd give you all of Sydney Harbour (all that land, all that water) for that one sweet promenade". That beautifully encapsules the reverence they felt and I feel for Port Phillip.

I want to also acknowledge my political roots. I am a child of the Labor Party and the Community Alliance of Port Phillip (CAPP). One local, one national. They have educated me and fuelled my political fire. Acknowledging my political roots also means some thank you's.

Firstly, my campaign team – including Darcy, Jen, Simon, Rhonda, Brenda and John – and all the wonderful people who supported our campaign. You made this happen. Thank you.

To my formidable former bosses, State Government Ministers Jaclyn Symes and Mary-Anne Thomas. Working with you taught me a politics that is kind, intelligent and determined to make the world better. Thank you.

To my CAPP family – Brenda, Rhonda, Anne, Helen, Jen and many more – our city's progressive legacy is also yours. Thank you.

It's funny although I was raised by an incredible and loving single dad, - Dad, I can never thank you enough - I've been fortunate to have many political mums. Between Labor and CAPP, these women, including Cr Crawford, have taught me a better politics.

I'm also shaped by my queer roots. When you're gay, after you come out, you're born again.

This second birth forced me to challenge every assumption I had about my life which has made me a stronger person. That said, the loneliness and trauma we go through when we hide ourselves does stay with us. After all these years I still sometimes catch myself hiding who I am due to traumatic muscle memory but I chose to live as a proud gay man.

Queers lives and choices are different to straight society. As a gay 31 year old, I sometimes cruise, I sometimes drink too much and dirty dance and I sometimes send nudes on Grindr. These things are part of my queer life and my private life but they are not a secret life.

I say not secret because our difference should never again force us into hiding through weaponised shame. I don't want any young queer person to be ashamed of who they are or how they live. We don't have to broadcast every element of our lives but we also shouldn't have to hide. Weaponised shame is still costing lives.

As our City's first Councillor born in the 1990s, I think a bring something different and I am so excited to serve you but I do want to touch on how I will work for you. Being a politician is hard and people see us as aliens so I respectfully ask all those I work with and for to remember that I am human. I won't tolerate being bullied or harassed, and that includes online.