https://jgclaw-my.sharepoint.com/personal/john\_jgc-law\_com/Documents/Documents/john word files/MyFiles/john/1 Police Rep Aug 2024.docx

I am 67 years old, and after arriving here as an infant from England I have spent most of my life living in Toronto. My father was a medical officer and Captain in the British 8th Army and my mother was a Lieutenant in the home guard. My paternal grandfather fled Russia to avoid the pogroms of the late 19th century.

I have always felt safe in Toronto. I could walk anywhere and often wore clothes that showed my support for Israel and the IDF. Not any more. While I still proudly wear my chai and dog tag (to remind myself and others of the hostages held in Gaza) I am very careful where I wear other identifying items.

Public demonstrations are an important part of our Canadian culture and legal system. They allow individuals to express their opinions (good or bad), influence public debate and government policy. But there is no right to threaten, harass, intimidate or obstruct. Canadian rights are designed to be balanced against each other. No one right is supreme or exclusive.

What do I expect of the Police:

I am looking to the Police for protection, clarity of intent and action.

1. **Be educated**. In the current climate the officer on the street needs to have more than a passing understanding of the conflict. The Police must understand the slogans and signs designed to instill fear, apprehension and anxiety in members of the Jewish community.

“From the River to the Sea” is not a call for freedom and equality, it is a call for genocide which originates with Hamas- a Canadian Designated Terror Organization- in its original Arabic it was, From the water to the water Palestine will be Arab. The intent is clearer in that format.

The inverted red triangle is used by Hamas to mark targets of murder.

“Zionist” is code for “Jew”- don’t be naïve.

They should know what the flags of Hamas and Hezbollah (and other organizations like ISIS) look like. They are proscribed terror organizations and support for them should not be encourage or allowed.

1. **Be clear**. Tell protesters where they can protest, what are red lines of action and expression and follow through. Masks should not be allowed and that should be clear. You want to say something, stand behind your statement- show your face.
2. There are places where demonstration is appropriate and there are places where it is not. If people want to protest, they should be directed to City Hall, Queen’s Park or other legitimate venues. Marching through residential neighborhoods, on highway overpasses or taking over public spaces and trying to intimidate those showing their support for Israel are not designed to achieve any legitimate goal. Such actions are designed to instill fear, to suppress the expression of other legitimate rights and to terrorize others. The rules must be clear, be clearly and loudly articulated and enforced promptly.
3. Those in power must speak and be clear that they and the police will not tolerate hateful action, speech calling for death or intimidation. Universities are centres of learning and the clash of ideas. They should not be physical battlefields where one group is physically excluded, threatened with violence or harassed because of their faith, their national or ethnic identity or other immutable characteristic.
4. Freedom of Expression can be respected. People want to say they think Israel is wrong, to (mis) characterize its action and call on our government to act in a way they support- is legitimate. Calls for Zionists (Jews) to be killed, excluded or told they have no place in our society are hateful and should have no place in Canadian society.

Here is a simple test. Take what a person says and if it would NOT be Ok to say about blacks, Muslims, gay people or other marginalized groups then it is NOT ok to say about Jews.

Thank you