2024.08.21- TPS Submission re Public Order

We are grateful for what the TPS has done to make the Jewish community feel safe, in particular since Oct. 7, 2023, when worldwide tensions exploded. That being said, since this is a community consultation on public order, there is more to say. There are steps I and my community believe the TPS should implement in order to restore the Jewish community’s sense that they belong in this city, and have a right to live here safely, as the law states. Without TPS support, and worried about our own safety, we cannot continue to contribute to Toronto’s vitality (economic, technological, health, legal, culture) in a meaningful way, even though we have done so for centuries. And while hate is currently being directed in largest measure against the Jewish community, there is no doubt that if allowed to flourish, evil and life- changing hate will be directed against many other Toronto - and Canadian- communities as well.

1. **Police training about laws** that govern protest management to assist with enforcement of laws to maintain peace and order, particularly in major city intersections and predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods.
2. Adopt a **zero-tolerance approach** toward any form of **hate speech at public demonstrations** and **updated police training** in both antisemitism and hate crime enforcement.
3. **Improved protest management**. This includes ensuring protests are not obstructing traffic or preventing people from going about their business. Police need to impose safe access zones around places of worship, schools, and community service agencies to prevent them from being used as venues for protest. We know that protest management comes with resource costs, and we support the police in obtaining necessary resources to maintain peace and order. Of course this means upholding the law which has **zero tolerance for hate speech at demonstrations.** We support increased police training to identify and respond quickly to hate speech or slogans or symbols when they occur.
4. **Campus security**. We support resources and training for police to assist campus security when support is needed to manage university encampments and protests.
5. **Public demonstrations**. We expect police to exercise a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to any form of hate speech at a public demonstration (including means an additional charge if protestors are wearing a mask). In addition, police should be trained on the use of certain sayings and connotations that have an equally negative impact on the community, and more generally, receive **updated training in both antisemitism and hate crime enforcement. Police** should clearly know what is and what is not hate speech. Training must include specific content regarding how to address the presence of antisemitism / acts motivated by hate as part of public demonstrations. This includes understanding the historical context, meaning, and impact of antisemitic and genocidal hate speech as well as being able to identify the tactics and symbols used in hate speech and propaganda (including foreign language material), as well as being capable of detecting emerging hate groups using all the above.
6. **We very much support police** obtaining **additional resources** that may be required to support antisemitism and hate crime enforcement **training**.

Many thanks, and keep up your good work,

Naomi Roskies

Toronto