To: TPSB

From: Barbara Brachi

Date: August 28, 2024

Regarding consultation/inquiry into the public disturbance and threat from rallies, protests and crowd hate and menace to the public at large.

I speak to you as several times this past six months I have been unable to access buildings essential to my care. Either on foot or by car. Protests blocking roadways (some already partial blocked to construction) to stop and intimidate people trying to get to work, to medical appointments, access to city amenities or the city hall itself as most importantly and to hospital services.

The deployment of police services so very needed in our city, to these organized groups who only purpose and intent is to disrupt city life. This is not acceptable. I understand that police take a fair amount of risk in their daily work, but to deploy them to these large groups full of hate and disruption is not what the police are here for. As I understand Police services are there to maintain order. I would prefer that the police do their job of catching criminals, responding to 911, people distress and fear.

Perhaps the military are a better choice for managing these groups who is intent is cause chaos.

The recent anti-semitism crowds, which is not our culture in Canada, is the most recent example although there have been but there have been many other groups who are intent on only disrupting services, becoming violent and intimidating to people just walking on the street.

I add my voice to those of my fellow citizen who wish to provide forums for different points of view, as that is also a Canadian value but not at the risk of a peaceful city who needs care for people they go about their daily work. It has been impossible this summer and this needs to change, with legislation, increased power of the Police to apprehend organizers, participants, leaders. It is never okay to block access to hospital, to a home, to a place of work, medical offices, transit hubs, ambulances, fire trucks those who’s disability requires them to use vehicle transport.

Well my mother’s comment (she is 97!) is that the City and the Police Service need to ‘get grip on the situation and make the consequences clear to people who ignore the rules’.

Sincerely and with best wishes for the fine Police force and may there rules and legislation that take care of the Police officer’s well-being as well.

Barbara Brachi