

Toronto Police Service Board's Public Order Policy Consultation

Ontario Regulation 392/23: *Adequate and Effective Policing (General)* made under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (Act)*,

Presented by: Jim Lisser, August 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Ontario Regulation 392/23: *Adequate and Effective Policing (General)* made under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (Act)*. The following outlines suggestions/ideas/thoughts:

1. **Enforcement of Laws** – Would like to emphasize the need for police to adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward any form of hate speech at public demonstrations and ask for updated police training in both antisemitism and hate crime enforcement.
2. **Blocking of Streets /Areas/Encampments and Enforcement on Private Property** – Am asking for improved protest management functions from the police such as ensuring protests are not obstructing traffic or preventing people from going about their business. As well, the police should impose safe access zones around places of worship, schools, and community service agencies to prevent them from being used as venues for protest. I acknowledge that protest management comes with resource costs, and it is important to express support for police to obtain necessary resources to maintain peace and order. This consultation should address zero tolerance for hate speech at demonstrations and ensure that police have the training to identify and respond quickly to hate speech (speech / slogans / symbols) when it occurs.
3. **Encampments on university campuses** – Given the illegality of these actions, I support resources and training for police to assist campus security when support is needed to manage university encampments and protests. It is important to highlight the need for training and resources to better position police to assist with campus protests, riots or other scenarios where their support is required by a university and / or school.

4. **Masking** - To address this concern, police should exercise a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to any form of hate speech at a public demonstration (which means an additional charge if they are also wearing a mask). There should be emphasis on the importance of applying a zero-tolerance definition to hate speech, but police must also be educated on the use of certain sayings and connotations that have an equally negative impact on the community. As well, I would like to ask that police receive updated training in both antisemitism and hate crime enforcement. 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).

5. **Police Training/Education** - Would be critical for the police to receive updated training in both antisemitism and hate crime enforcement. That training should 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; being able to identify the tactics and symbols used in hate speech and propaganda (including foreign language material) as well as capable of detecting emerging hate groups using all the above. I support the police obtaining additional resources that may be required to support antisemitism and hate crime enforcement training.

6. **Reporting hate crimes** – Given the presence of hate symbols and the call for genocide of the Jewish people, it is vital that the Toronto police apply a zero-tolerance approach to hate symbols / speech at any protest. Furthermore, would advocate for TPS-wide enhanced hate crime training that would equip all police to identify the tactics / symbols and propaganda necessary to be able to enforce hate laws.

7. **Graffiti** – Given the prevalence of antisemitic content / calls for genocide, I support for TPS-wide enhanced hate crime training that would equip all police to identify the tactics / symbols and propaganda necessary to enforce hate laws. In addition, the police should receive additional resources that may be required to support antisemitism and hate crime enforcement training. Also suggest a unified approach that is collaborative between the police and municipalities, so that the graffiti is removed quickly.