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**Submission to the Toronto Police Service Board
Public Order Policy Consultation
August 27, 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Board about this important matter. We do indeed live in trouble times. However, I am in no way disappointed with the actions of the Toronto police over the course of the past ten months in addressing the needs for public safety and order in Toronto. I do wish to offer several suggestions that I hope will be helpful.

1. The Protagonists. The groups that are organizing authorized and illegal disruptions of public order have, I believe, one goal in mind, in relation to the police. Unfortunately, there are those among the groups who are professional agitators who would like nothing better than to see the police overreact and thus cause physical harm to protesters. In that way they could continue the narrative, most are promoting, which is that they represent a victim population overseas and that we in Toronto, are unsympathetic to the suffering of those they claim to represent.
2. I believe that the enthusiasm for protesting outside of the bounds of authorized protest and legal public gatherings can be eased. I would like to see the police regularly charge particularly zealous, if not troubling protesters, with citations such as ‘Disturbing the Peace.’ I understand that such a charge is not a major crime but is a misdemeanor. However, requiring an individual to appear before a Court of Law, sends a message to that person that their behavior is beyond the bounds of civil discourse, and is not acceptable in our community. An appearance before a Judge might give them pause to reconsider their actions in the future.
3. I am concerned about the frequent expressions of anti-Jewish hatred that have been occurring in Toronto. Simultaneously, there have been no instances, to my knowledge, of significant public anti-Muslim nor public anti-Christian statements or other expressions of hatred towards these communities. Therefore, when leaders in our city, including the mayor, chiefs of police and other senior officials make statements expressing disapproval and regret at these antisemitic activities, I would urge that you do not simultaneously refer to anti-Christian or anti-Muslim expressions of hatred. The facts are, by a very wide margin, that expressions of antisemitism are at historically elevated levels, while other groups have not been made targets in this way.

Thank you for giving of your time to review my submission, and those of others, in the service of keeping our community and the good people of our city safe.

Sincerely,

**Jack S. Kugelmass**

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