

July 31, 2024

Toronto Police Service Board  
40 College Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Phone: 416 808-8080

To the Toronto Police Service Board,

**Re: Public Order Policy Consultation**

I was alarmed and scared as I watched events such as at the Avenue Road bridge earlier this year, and more recently on July 3 as pro-palestinian protesters left their UofT encampment and marched up St. George Street and across Bloor Street. The Toronto Police Service merely looked-on as these people blocked public streets and bridges, without permits, while screaming and chanting hate, including using amplifiers, targeted against specific groups.

That the Toronto Police Service decides to only watch this illegal activity gives the message to the protestors their behaviour and actions are acceptable. This empowers these law-breakers that their anger, numbers, or what the protest could evolve into has intimidated the police to be idle by-standers.

This rewards the protestors' illegal actions, while leaving the targeted and law-abiding groups feeling further threatened.

This divisiveness is bad for society. This double-standard that angry people are allowed to break the law is bad for society. Protests should not be allowed against a specific and peaceful group. And protests should not be allowed to break the law.

While the Toronto Police Service has been excellent in responding to the Jewish community's concerns, the appearance is that the law does not apply to pro-palestinian protesters.

Police response to protests and demonstrations must be consistent; blocking traffic when protestors choose to should not be tolerated as it provides the appearance that some groups receive special treatment. Allowing illegal protests to use amplified sounds should be stopped.

Protests should not be allowed against specific groups of people.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier