**TPS must do more to keep protests away from hospitals, schools and places of worship**

Consultation Submission

I am an oncology patient who visits hospital row with some frequency. It is my view that TPS and the City should do more to protect hospitals, schools and places of worship from loud and hateful protests.

While disruptive protests in front of hospitals are already forbidden by federal law (Bill C-3), I am concerned that the City applied this law to Covid-related protests but not to the crowd that gathered in front of Mt. Sinai Hospital on Feb 12, 2024.

This group blocked cars and inhibited foot traffic, while screaming “Intifada! Intifada!”, a term used to call for terrorist attacks. This was disruptive and disturbing to patients and staff.

The City should not have granted a permit for them to march on Hospital Row. If the march was off-route, the nearby precinct should have taken action to enforce legal consequences for the march’s leaders.

Within the context of a Jewish hospital setting, “Intifada! Intifada!” is also hate speech against an immigrant minority in our city (Israelis) as well as against Jewish residents, since most have family and cultural ties to the Mideast nation. Mt. Sinai’s logo is a Star of David and protestors stood outside the Heather Reisman wing, which is named after the Jewish founder of a store that had been vandalized with hate graffiti in weeks prior.

The actions at Mt. Sinai were condemned by the [mayor](https://twitter.com/MayorOliviaChow/status/1757488213763961120), [Premier](https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/protest-outside-mount-sinai-hospital-reprehensible-show-of-antisemitism-trudeau) and [Prime Minister](https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/in-the-news-today-trudeau-denounces-protest-outside-torontos-mount-sinai-hospital#:~:text=The%20prime%20minister%20says%20in,founded%20by%20the%20Jewish%20community.). But were there legal consequences? I read that TPS would investigate the incident, but I can find no information about any arrests, fines or warnings issued by TPS. What happened?

Back in 2021, the federal government created consequences for actions disrupting health care with the passage of[**Bill C-3**](https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-3/first-reading). The Bill allows for free speech close to a hospital if it is not obstructive; for example, handing out leaflets quietly, without harassing or blocking people. But it prohibits people from blocking access and/or intimidating people, with sentences of up to 10 years.

There is a big difference between a group of protesters outside Queen’s Park, where politicians are expecting it, and a group screaming hate speech outside a hospital. As a Torontonian, I believe hospitals, schools and houses of worship should be included in the TPS mandate for maintaining utmost peace and public order, with **zero tolerance** for harassment and disturbances. I also believe most Torontonians agree with me on that.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.