

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM27.19	ACTION			Ward:All
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**City Council's Commitment to a Tolerant Toronto - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council condemn all forms of racism and discrimination.

**Summary**

Toronto is committed to creating a society that is free from discrimination and racism; an inclusive City where everyone feels welcome. This vision is succinctly articulated in our City's motto: 'Diversity our Strength.'

Disturbingly, acts of hatred in Toronto are on the rise. Last year, 145 hate crimes, ranging from hateful speech to physical assaults, were reported to the Toronto Police Service. More recently, we have seen anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents, which are also cause for great concern. Crimes motivated by racial hatred or bias towards minority and religious groups are acts of intimidation that seek to divide Torontonians from one another. Each act of hatred or intolerance threatens our vision of an inclusive, welcoming City.

Creating and nurturing a climate of acceptance requires us to condemn divisive and hateful action. I believe it is incumbent upon the elected representatives of Toronto to reinforce our values when they are threatened.

Members of minority and religious groups targeted by acts of violence and intimidation deserve to know that Toronto's leaders stand with them and against their aggressors.

Therefore, in light of the rise in racially/bias motivated acts in our City, I am asking that Toronto City Council speak with one voice and declare our commitment to fight racist rhetoric and hate crimes.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM27.19

