
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM34.48	ACTION			Ward: All
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Addressing the Rise in Anti-Semitic Violence - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, Councillor Josh Matlow and Councillor James Pasternak

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, Councillor Josh Matlow and Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council condemn in the strongest terms possible the recent acts of Anti-Semitism and hate and restate its commitment to an inclusive and welcoming City for all Toronto residents.
2. City Council express its support for a National Action Summit on Anti-Semitism with the participation of the Federal, Provincial and local governments.
3. City Council commit to relaunching the Toronto For All anti-Semitism campaign.
4. City Council direct the City Manager, in partnership with relevant divisions, to support Jewish community members on how to report hate-crimes.

Summary

We know from the Toronto Police Hate Crime Unit that the Jewish community was the most frequently victimized group in 2020. Anti-Semitic attacks have continued in 2021 with an extremely troubling rise in recent weeks and months.

We have heard the valid concerns of the Jewish community and we stand with

them against this hatred.

The Jewish community is one that includes survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants – they know all too well the danger of anti-Semitism and the tragedies that follow when it is allowed to stand unchallenged.

That is why we are committed as a City to confronting anti-Semitism – in all its forms - and ensuring Toronto Police are supported in the pursuit of hate crimes.

We will not let hatred take root in our City and we will not let it grow. This is why our Toronto For All public education initiative this year will target anti-Semitism and why we have worked to put in place policies to stop hate rallies in our City.

While we all have more work to do in the weeks, months, and years ahead to continue to confront anti-Semitism, it is important to the Jewish Community and to our entire City to send a clear message reaffirming that there is no place for any kind of attacks on the Jewish Community in Toronto.

Along with a rise in incidents of anti-Semitism, we are also currently seeing a deeply concerning global increase in polarized discourse that includes a disturbing rise in racist and discriminatory behaviour, including but not limited to Islamophobia, anti-Asian, and anti-Black racism, and hatred directed at our Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities.

It is our job as elected officials to make sure all of the communities who call Toronto home are able to live without fear in our City. We all have a right to feel respected and safe in Toronto. That is why we will continue to stand with Toronto's diverse communities – in tough times and in good times – so that they know their City and their Council supports them.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34.48