



Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Inc.®

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha

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December 16, 2024

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Toronto City Council
City of Toronto

Support for the Recommendations in Agenda Item 2024.CC24.2 – Policy Framework: City Response to Demonstrations

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Canada (BAPS), a global Hindu organization dedicated to fostering harmony, community service, and spirituality, I write to extend our support for the recommendations outlined in the report titled *Policy Framework – City Response to Demonstrations* (Item 2024.CC24.2).

BAPS is committed to the safety, security, and inclusivity of the communities we serve. The City of Toronto's proactive approach to addressing demonstrations and public safety concerns is a vital step towards fostering a secure and equitable environment for all residents, especially in the face of increasing challenges posed by hate-motivated actions.

We particularly propose the following recommendations:

- **Developing a Hate-Free Spaces By-Law (Recommendation 3):** This proposed legislation is a critical measure to protect individuals and communities from hate-based disruptions, ensuring public spaces remain welcoming for everyone.
- **One-Time Grant Program for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (Recommendation 4):** Providing \$2.5 million in funding to assist community organizations with hostile vehicle mitigation efforts is a forward-thinking initiative. Places of worship and cultural centers, including mandirs such as ours, will benefit immensely from this support, allowing us to prioritize the safety of all who enter our spaces.

As a faith-based organization, BAPS has been privileged to serve Toronto's diverse communities by promoting harmony and celebrating multiculturalism. We are confident that these recommendations will contribute significantly to safeguarding the vibrancy and inclusivity of Toronto.

We urge the City Council to adopt this framework and its recommendations, and we stand ready to collaborate in any way to ensure their success.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to building a safe and inclusive city for all.

Sincerely,

Chandrakant (Charles) Sachdev, M.B.I.M
President
BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Canada