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December 16, 2024

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding the Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate Action Plan

Councillor James Pasternak submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information on the *Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate Action Plan*. This letter provides a response to this request. It has been developed in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services, Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Emergency Management and the Toronto Police Service.

Introduction

On May 22, 2024 ([MM18.16](#)), City Council adopted the following recommendation:

1. City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to develop an action plan to recognize that Torontonians are able to practice their faith and access their place of worship free of intimidation and harassment; and are able to freely exercise their protected Charter rights to freedom of assembly, religion and expression and convey the action plan directly to relevant participating bodies including Municipal Licensing and Standards and the Toronto Police Service Board.

As directed by City Council, the City Manager submitted the *Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate Action Plan* to the Toronto Police Service Board, which was received for information at the [October 8, 2024 board meeting](#).

Response

Please find below responses to each of the questions submitted.

1. When will Toronto City Council be presented with a final “action plan” to assist in protecting places of worship and vulnerable faith based institutions in Toronto?

As directed by City Council, the City Manager submitted the *Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate Action Plan* to the October 8, 2024 meeting of the Toronto Police Service Board. The Action Plan was also distributed to Members of City Council and the City’s Corporate Leadership Team on October 2, 2024. An update on key actions from the Action Plan is provided in the City Manager’s December 10, 2024 report to City Council ([CC24.2](#)). The Action Plan will continue to evolve as work in the areas outlined in the plan are implemented.

2. Has the Office of Emergency Management been convened or consulted to help build the action plan and provide guidance on how best to ensure safety and civility in Toronto since October 7, 2023.

Toronto Emergency Management (TEM) was consulted in the development of the *Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate Action Plan*. TEM plays an ongoing role in promoting safety by supporting the City’s emergency response and collaboration with the TPS during major events (e.g. public safety incidents).

3. The “action plan” motion asks that Municipal Licensing and Standards be involved. Does Municipal Licensing and Standards have a plan developed with Toronto Police Service that will enforce Toronto’s by laws and at the same time keep by law officers safe?

The Municipal Licensing and Standards division (MLS) has an ongoing working relationship with the Toronto Police Service (TPS). MLS requests police attendance when there are safety issues whilst enforcing city bylaws. Conversely, the TPS requests MLS attendance, where necessary, safe and appropriate, to enforce applicable City bylaws. Through the development of the Action Plan, we have strengthened the working relationship of MLS and TPS, and there is more proactive involvement of MLS in responding to activities in the community.

Note the City’s Bylaw Enforcement Officers (BEOs) do not respond to disorderly behaviour or criminal activities. MLS collaborates with other enforcement agencies, such as the TPS, who have effective authority, enforcement powers and training to respond.

4. Toronto Police Service have been taking on the responsibility for ensuring the protection of both federal and provincial sites and infrastructure. Has the City Manager and/or Police Services approached the other levels of government to assist with protection of critical infrastructure that is not municipal in nature?

The City Manager continues ongoing dialogue with intergovernmental counterparts to discuss issues impacting the City and identify opportunities to collaborate.

5. *Has the City of Toronto received comments and suggestions from the Toronto Police Service board or other members of the force about how best to address the growing unrest on the streets of Toronto?*

On October 11, 2023, City Council adopted [MM11.37 – Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate](#) requesting the Toronto Police Service Board provide an update to the Mayor and Members of City Council on the work of the Toronto Police and the Hate Crimes Unit. In response, the Board submitted a letter to [Mayor Chow dated November 2, 2023](#).

The City's *Policy Framework – City Response to Demonstrations* and an update on the City's ongoing collaboration with the TPS is provided in the City Manager's December 10, 2024 report to City Council ([CC24.2](#)).

The Police Chief did communicate to the City Manager the need for MLS to be more actively involved in supporting TPS. As outlined in the Action Plan, further actions are being taken including:

- The City's Bylaw Enforcement team and the TPS will continue a coordinated response to rallies and protests "on the ground" to proactively address City bylaw violations.
- TPS and the City are exploring ways to involve the City's Bylaw Enforcement team more alongside the TPS for specific events.

Sincerely,



Paul Johnson
City Manager

cc: Will Johnston, Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure Services
Kate Bassil, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office
Carleton Grant, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Joanna Beaven-Desjardins, Executive Director, Toronto Emergency Management
Dubi Kanengisser, Executive Director, Toronto Police Service Board
Myron Demkiw, Chief of Police, Toronto Police Service