

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM18.16	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Requesting the Province to Create Safety Zones Around Places of Worship, Faith-Based Schools and Vulnerable Community Social Infrastructure - by Councillor Brad Bradford, 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.*

*\* A revised Motion was posted on May 22, 2024.*

*\* Communications have been submitted on this Item.*

### Recommendations

1. City Council request the Attorney-General of Ontario to introduce legislation to permit peaceful protests or demonstrations while creating safety zones (modelled on Ontario’s “bubble zone” law that protects women’s access to reproductive health), for places of worship; faith-based schools, daycares, community centres and museums; and other institutions of a religious or cultural nature.

### Summary

Since October 2023, there has been an increase in protests and demonstrations across the world, and Toronto has been no exception. In March 2024, Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw reported that Toronto has seen a 93 percent increase in hate crimes since October 7, 2023. A shocking 56 percent of incidents have been antisemitic and target Toronto’s Jewish minority – but there have also been increases in anti-LGBTQ hate, anti-Black hate, and anti-Arab, Muslim and Palestinian hate.

At the October 2023 Council meeting, Council unanimously passed Mayor Chow’s motion 2023.MM11.37, “Keeping Toronto Safe from Hate.” This motion supported the creation of “community safety zones... inclusive of areas surrounding places of worship and cultural and religious daycares and schools recognized as a potential target for hate.”

To date, no such zones have been created. Instead, demonstrations continue to occur close to and target such facilities, creating fear and distress for many Torontonians. This is why we ask the Province to urgently develop policy and legislation to create safety zones with a radius of 50 to 150 metres, modelled on the “bubble zone” laws that protect women’s access to reproductive health, such as Ontario’s Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017.

All people of Toronto have the right to safely gather and peacefully co-exist. While we must protect the right to peaceful protest and ensure all Torontonians have an opportunity to voice their opinion, this must not extend to disturbing protests that target vulnerable locations such as places of worship, faith-based schools, daycares, or cultural community centres.

Torontonians are looking to their elected officials to take action to ensure their safety.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM18.16

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-245755.pdf>

### **Communications (City Council)**

(May 19, 2024) E-mail from Judy Machtinger (MM.Supp)

(May 21, 2024) E-mail from Independent Jewish Voices Toronto-York Region Chapter (MM.New)

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/comm/communicationfile-179766.pdf>

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Nicole Corrado (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Stephanie Myers (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) Letter from Andria Babbington, President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council (MM.New)

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/comm/communicationfile-179782.pdf>

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Jeffrey Lipsitz (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Shoshanna Saxe (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Marion Greenberg (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Avishag Campbell (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Katya Linkov (MM.New)

(May 22, 2024) E-mail from Helena Yakovlev Golani (MM.New)