



**JESSICA  
BELL**

MPP Riding University—Rosedale  
Député provincial de University—Rosedale

May 21, 2025

Paul Johnson, Toronto City Manager  
City of Toronto  
4th Floor, East Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr Johnson,

Re: Democratic freedom to protest in Toronto

I am writing to express my concern to the proposed 'Bubble zones' bylaw currently before Toronto City Council, which could limit our Canadian Charter-protected rights. I respectfully urge council to vote against it.

The right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly is enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This ensures that everyone's voices can be heard in a free and fair democracy. In a time where we are standing up for Canada's sovereignty, we must preserve the fundamental freedoms of Canada's democracy.

Toronto City Council should carefully consider the questions the proposed bylaw raises around Torontonians' democratic right to protest. Charter challenges are currently underway regarding similar Municipal by-laws, and constitutional law stakeholders such as the Canadian Civil Liberties Association have also expressed their serious concerns.

We also must ensure that Toronto continues to be a welcoming city, and we need to remain committed to addressing antisemitism, Islamophobia and discrimination in every form so everyone can feel safe. We can uphold our democratic norms and address the very serious issues facing communities at the same time.

I respectfully urge Toronto City Council to vote against this bylaw to protect the freedoms under our Canadian Charter.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bell  
MPP for University-Rosedale

**COMMUNITY OFFICE**

719 Bloor Street W, Unit 103  
Toronto, ON M6G 1L5  
📞 416-535-7206 📧 [JBell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBell-co@ndp.on.ca)

**QUEEN'S PARK**

Room 384, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A5  
📞 416-325-1620 📧 [JBell-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBell-qp@ndp.on.ca)