

From: fibrahimo.gov
To: [councilmeeting](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [Councillor Moise](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2025.CC30.5 on May 21, 2025 City Council
Date: May 21, 2025 5:05:44 PM

To Mayor Olivia Chow, and Toronto Centre Councillor Chris Moise:
Please read my comments below.

To the City Clerk,

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting on item 2025.CC30.5, Proposed By-law Amendment to Provide Access to Social Infrastructure

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

I am deeply concerned about the integrity of this City Council, the City Manager (CM), and his staff. I have repeatedly expressed concerns that city staff have told me are inapplicable, only to have those very concerns surface and in the form of this deeply flawed policy proposal. I have also observed Mayor Chow [lie on social media](#), * fail to apologize for it, and then reference that lie as a basis for restricting protest. I also find it deeply problematic that the council is threatening our Charter right to protest, while opting for an opaque process that excludes citizen deputations and obscures the motivations of those pushing hard to restrict protest.

It is also not lost on me that while City Council can carelessly pass an unconstitutional by-law, it takes time, money, and effort to challenge this, resources that members of the council itself do not have to pay for. This is how bureaucratic oppression works: pass unjust laws, and then saddle marginalized groups with the burden of undoing them, relying on the fact that their own taxpayer dollars are used against them to fund City Council's defence, not to mention the money, time, and effort busy citizens would have to expend to combat this injustice. I have not even mentioned the \$1.8 million dollars you are proposing to fund by-law staff and an educational campaign for this unconstitutional by-law, a further waste of taxpayer dollars.

I have already observed that City Council does not appear to apply a critical lens on the words its staff puts in front of it, and staff also appears to lack critical thought when drafting those words. There appears to be no attempt to even identify which protests James Pasternak, Brad Bradford, Dianne Saxe, and Rachel Chernos Lin, have been offended by,** let alone any attempt to discuss any context behind why those protests occurred, and exactly what illegal activity happened during those protests. Of course, if any honest attempt was made to discuss this, we would learn that protests occurred outside of synagogues because [illegal real estate events](#) and [celebrations of Israeli soldiers](#) were occurring in them. All of this has been happening as the Zionist entity stands accused of genocide, and as we are hearing news of that about [14,000 babies could die](#) in less than 24 hours as a result of Israel's forced starvation campaign.

I have attended meetings with the CM's staff, who said that their interpretation of the item would leave a 'no by-law recommendation' option to be a possible recommendation of theirs, only to have CM Paul Johnson later tell us that they were forced by City Council direction to draft a by-law.

While speaking with Paul Johnson and a staff member of his, I also criticized the concept of 'psychological safety' as a problematically subjective criterion for by-law enforcement, and I questioned whose psychological safety was being centred in this proposal. Apparently, it is the safety of those celebrating soldiers of the genocidal occupying Israeli army that is being centred. It is clearly not the psychological safety of Palestinians and their allies who have been seeing the decapitated, dismembered, shredded, and bisected bodies of their children, women, and men live-streamed to our phones for 19+ months, ignored and denied by our politicians. Paul Johnson said that 'psychological safety' would not be included as a criterion in the by-law. That turned out to be another falsehood.

By-law or no by-law, we will continue to protest genocide, apartheid, and occupation. Will you be remembered as being among those who conduct lawfare to support its continuation, or will you be remembered as being among those who support justice and liberation? We will see when you vote over the next two days.

Faisal Ibrahim
Resident of Toronto Centre

* [This article](#) by Dave Gray-Donald documents in detail the events of the day. No hospitals were targeted, and neither were they blocked.

** In a press conference today, Diane Saxe claimed "The by-law as proposed by staff is an insult to the Jewish community." I can point you to many Jewish people and organizations who do NOT approve of Diane claiming to speak for them, and who resent the weaponization of Jewish identity as cover for material and political support of the apartheid entity of Israel and its actions.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.