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March 25, 2025

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 a Proposed Demonstrations Bylaw to Protect Vulnerable Institutions

Councillor Pasternak submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information on City staff's report-back to City Council regarding the development of a proposed demonstrations bylaw to protect vulnerable institutions, as directed by Council ([2024.CC24.2](#)). This letter provides a response to this request.

Introduction

At its meeting on December 17 and 18, 2024 ([2024.CC24.2](#)), City Council adopted the following:

City Council direct the City Manager, in consultation with the City Solicitor, applicable City divisions, the Toronto Police Service and other applicable stakeholders, to report to City Council in the first quarter of 2025, informed by public consultations and a constitutional legal expert opinion on the Charter Rights implications from the City Solicitor, with a proposed by-law, with an emphasis on protecting vulnerable institutions such as places of worship, faith-based schools and cultural institutions, that supports the City's commitment to keeping Torontonians safe from hate and protects Charter rights that address impacts of demonstrations that target people based on their identity as prohibited under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

City staff have been advancing work in response to Council's direction.

Response

Please find below responses to each of the questions submitted.

1. What are the ongoing challenges in the public and legal consultation process that have caused this report and proposed by law to be delayed?

Following the December 2024 Council meeting, City staff have been advancing work in response to Council's direction. The City is committed to open, inclusive and transparent public consultations. The City Manager's Office requires additional time beyond Q1 to implement a multi-pronged approach for public consultation that maximizes opportunities for public input and enables broad participation and inclusive representation.

2. Which "divisional partners" provided advice to the City Manager's Office suggesting that this consultation process required a more "robust and comprehensive" approach?

The City Manager's Office is consulting with applicable City divisions to support the report-back to Council, such as Corporate Real Estate Management; Indigenous Affairs Office; Legal Services; Municipal Licensing and Standards; Social Development, Finance and Administration; Strategic Public and Employee Communications; and Transportation Services.

3. What is the critical path and plan for obtaining public input for the drafted "bubble zone" by laws requested by Council?

The City is taking a multi-pronged approach for public consultation, which includes the following:

Online Survey

- An online survey was launched on March 17 and is open until May 1. The survey can be accessed at: [https://cotsurvey.chkmt.com/2024 CC24_2](https://cotsurvey.chkmt.com/2024_CC24_2)

Written Comments

- Written comments to engagement@toronto.ca may be submitted until May 1.

Public Discussions

- Additional opportunities to participate in public discussions for input will follow in April. More information on the dates of the public discussions will be communicated once confirmed.

Information and additional details on the City's public consultation can be found on the City's webpage at: <http://toronto.ca/PublicConsult>

4. When will the City Manager and the Chief Solicitor present "bubble zone" by laws to Toronto City Council for consideration?

City staff will be reporting back with a proposed bylaw and staff recommendations to City Council at its meeting on May 21-23, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Johnson
City Manager

cc: Wendy Walberg, City Solicitor
Kate Bassil, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office