

councilmeeting

From: Daniel Tate <daniel@integrityto.ca>
Sent: May 16, 2025 11:06 AM
To: councilmeeting
Subject: [External Sender] Re: My comments for 2025.IA30.1 on May 21, 2025 City Council
Categories: Communication (Supp)

Hi there was a minor typo in my letter. Can you please use the one below? Thanks.

From: Daniel Tate <daniel@integrityto.ca>
Date: Friday, May 16, 2025 at 12:50 AM
To: "councilmeeting@toronto.ca" <councilmeeting@toronto.ca>
Subject: My comments for 2025.IA30.1 on May 21, 2025 City Council

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 21, 2025 City Council meeting on item 2025.IA30.1, The Development of the Proposed Demonstrations By-law, and publish my comments on the website:

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:

May 16, 2025

Dear Council,

We are living in a deeply unsettling time. As laid bare at this week's Toronto Police Services Board meeting, hate crimes are spiking across our city—from vile rhetoric and threats to vandalism and outright assaults. A dangerous climate of impunity has taken hold, where activists and demonstrators now operate with such audacity that their actions have crossed the line from disruptive to criminal. Vulnerable communities are left feeling abandoned by the very institutions charged with their protection.

That's why it was encouraging to see Toronto Police remind the public this week that protests on highway overpasses are a clear violation of the City's municipal code. This message cannot be said enough. I've personally witnessed the volatility of these gatherings—on one occasion, I saw a protester hurl a bottle onto Highway 401. The fact that this kind of conduct is tolerated under the guise of "free speech" is nothing short of madness.

Let's be clear: the Charter right to freedom of expression is not without limits. It does not give anyone license to intimidate, harass, or instill fear—especially in sacred spaces like churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and schools. These are sanctuaries, not battlegrounds. The same principle that underpins "bubble zones" around abortion clinics applies here. Other municipalities such as Oakville and Vaughan have already acted. Why is Toronto lagging behind?

The safety, dignity, and peace of mind of our residents—especially children and members of vulnerable communities—must be non-negotiable. The fact that such protections are even up for debate speaks volumes about the erosion of basic civic values. There are countless appropriate venues for demonstrations: parks, public squares, consulates, and government offices. But those who insist on staging aggressive protests in front of houses of worship or schools need a reality check—these are not arenas for ideological warfare.

The time to act is now. Establishing a 25 to 50-meter buffer zone around schools and places of worship is not only common sense—it's a moral imperative. Passing this bylaw will send a powerful message: that Toronto stands for peace, tolerance, and the right of every faith group to worship without fear or harassment. Let our elected representatives rise to this moment and prove that safeguarding the public is still their highest duty.

Sincerely,

--Daniel Tate



Daniel Tate
Executive Director

 daniel@integrityto.ca

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