



ACORN

3 April 2025

To Mayor Olivia Chow & Toronto City Council,

We write to you today to express our firm opposition to the City of Toronto's proposed demonstrations bylaw. The idea of regulating and restricting public expressions of protest is undemocratic, draconian, likely unconstitutional, and has no place in the City of Toronto.

The motion as adopted by City Council in December 2024 would apply to City of Toronto property, including streets and sidewalks. With how many institutions are covered in the scope of the bylaw, the City is risking banning protest throughout much of Toronto. This would restrict the right of everyday Torontonians to take direct action to transform their communities and their city - a right that we would expect our City Council to respect.

The bylaw aims to address harassment, destruction of property, violence, and hate. But these acts are already illegal, and the Toronto Police Service is already empowered to address them. So then what does this bylaw do, except for depriving Torontonians of their freedom of expression?

We have a right to protest and picket. We have a right to take our concerns directly to those in power to demand change. That's why we demand that City Council drop the consideration of the proposed demonstrations bylaw, or expect to hear from us again.

Yours,

The Toronto ACORN Board

Monique Gordon

Chair, Etobicoke chapter

Rama Fayaz

Chair, Downtown Toronto chapter

Jacquie Mitchell

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Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

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