

MM43.50 - The Mayor's Seat: Restoring Direct Mayoral Accountability on the Toronto Police Service Board - by Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

I am writing in support of Councillor Bradford and Councillor Pasternak's motion and its recommendation that the Mayor personally serve on the Toronto Police Service Board.

The rise in antisemitism in Toronto is a failure of civic leadership. Its persistence has left many members of the Jewish community feeling vulnerable and forced to navigate ongoing safety concerns, without clear support. My family has experienced it firsthand. My husband's business was repeatedly targeted, he was confronted entering his workplace, and our family has received threats and vandalism.

Every single person deserves to feel safe being who they are. In their practice of faith, and most especially their ability for their children to attend school without fear. No community should feel that it must fend for itself in the face of intimidation, hate, or targeted violence. The incidents over the weekend were horrible. Thank you in particular to Councillor Pasternak for his words on the matter, enough is enough.

Community safety is the most fundamental responsibility of municipal government. The Mayor is elected to lead our city, and with that leadership comes direct accountability for ensuring residents feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods, schools, places of worship, on public transit, and in public spaces.

The Mayor's presence on the Toronto Police Service Board would reinforce that community safety is a core priority of City leadership and that accountability for policing and public safety cannot be delegated. It would send a strong message that the concerns of all Torontonians are being heard and addressed at the highest level.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge Council to support this motion.

Thank you very much.

Best,

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