

Dear Neighbour,

The weekly anti-Israel hateful protests on the east side of Bathurst & Sheppard have created unspeakable frustration, fear, and public safety issues. In many ways, the Charter rights of local residents to go about their daily lives free of harassment, intimidation, and incitement have not been protected. This is a public safety issue. The high volume of car and pedestrian traffic, combined with flags, amplified sound, the blaring of hateful music, and a heavy police presence, has created a serious risk to public safety and underscores the urgent need to address this issue.

Bathurst & Sheppard is primarily a Jewish neighbourhood and is home to a high number of Holocaust survivors. Steps from where these angry mobs gather on Sunday afternoons, there are Jewish schools and synagogues. We share the concerns of many: these protests are hateful in nature, target the Jewish community, and have caused grievous harm. While the protection of the Toronto Police Service is appreciated, spending tens of thousands of dollars every Sunday at this intersection is a shocking expenditure of resources that should go to traditional law enforcement.

The protests have gone beyond Charter protected peaceful assembly and have resulted in hate motivated crimes and other charges. They must stop. Please sign the petition below to help me bring this mayhem and public safety crisis to an end.

Sincerely,
James Pasternak
Councillor, Ward 6

 councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca

 416-392-1371

Petition from Councillor James Pasternak with approximately 3493 signatures. On file with the City Clerk.