

Thank you, Toronto Police Service (TPS). When I attend a march, rally, meeting or speakers' event in support of the Jewish community, peace in the Middle East, or Israel, I feel an immense relief at seeing the TPS presence. Thank you for being there. We need this police presence. The Jewish rallies often begin with the singing of Oh Canada in English and French. The TPS place themselves between the peaceful Jewish community supporters and the aggressive, intimidating groups that call themselves pro-Palestinian (**not** pro-peace), with many members who have covered their faces with keffiyeh scarves. Why are they concealing their identities? It is dismaying to hear the abuse that many in these pro-Palestinian groups often direct towards the TPS as well as towards the Jewish groups.

Funding: I am fully supportive of greater funding for police and the hiring of more police officers especially in the field of hate crimes. As a Toronto taxpayer, this is money well and pro-actively spent. The TPS needs the resources to maintain peace and order.

Safe access zones: The safe access zones are essential. Thank you for providing these zones of safety in front of synagogues, community centres and other Jewish sites. They protect a marginalized group and send a clear message about what is, and what is not, acceptable behaviour to those others who want to intimidate.

Peaceful protest: Peaceful protest and assembly at political sites such as City Hall, Queen's Park and the Israeli Consulate are protected forms of free speech. Targeting Jewish places of worship, Jewish community institutions, Jewish residential areas, Jewish restaurants and Jewish-named hospitals to create a climate of fear and intimidation against this marginalized community is not.

Money laundering: There appears to be a great deal of money and co-ordinated effort flowing into this endeavour to create a climate of fear and intimidation. The TPS money laundering unit may wish to take a careful look at the money trail.

Education and Training: It is vital that the TPS provide enhanced, widespread, ongoing education and training in antisemitism and hate crime enforcement to its officers. Training should be extensive and on-going. While not every TPS officer will receive sufficient training to become an expert, every TPS officer should receive basic and on-going training in antisemitism and hate crime enforcement with realistic scenarios to work through. This form of combined training and practice is the best, and perhaps the only, way to understand these matters.

It can be difficult for the uninitiated to discern protected speech from hate speech.

In addition, the TPS should employ or contract with experts or scholars to provide enhanced instruction to some officers and to be available for consultations. There should be enough highly trained TPS officers, or expert consultants available on contract to the TPS, that an officer in the field with a question can contact a TPS in-house or contract expert for a prompt answer or advice. The TPS needs the training and resources to identify and respond quickly to hate speech

Videotape rallies: The TPS should videotape rallies. The TPS should have the Arabic translated and analyzed by experts. The experts should analyze the English language slogans as well. Is that protected speech or hate speech? Some of the English language slogans used by the pro-Palestinian groups may appear innocuous to the untrained ear but are in fact hate speech and incitements to violence.

Masks: While wearing a mask is normally not illegal, including when participating in peaceful protests, it IS an offence to conceal your identity while committing a criminal offence. Therefore, masked protestors who are engaging in hate speech or that remain masked when a protest transitions into an illegal riot are guilty of an offence. I ask that the TPS exercise a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to any form of hate speech at a public demonstration, which means an additional charge if they're also wearing a mask.

The TPS should have no tolerance for hate speech at demonstrations.

We live in a wonderful, diverse, multicultural city and need to be on guard against manipulation by malign forces.

Thank you.