



**C88.**  
**Communication**  
**CW(2) – June 18, 2024**  
**Item No. 23**

June 3, 2024

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
Charles Chee

CHAIR  
Wendy Bellack-Viner

VICE CHAIR  
Eitan Dehtiar

SECRETARY  
Dr. Faisal Saeed

CHAIR –  
Governance/ Nominations  
Rachel Blumenfeld

CHAIR –  
Continuous Quality  
Improvement  
Jodi Kaiman

TREASURER AND CHAIR –  
Finance Committee Steve Walsh

DIRECTORS  
Dr. Alan Bardikoff  
Rick Chad  
Mindy Ginsler  
Tova Gutenber  
David MacCoy  
Michael Manett  
Dr. Sharon Marcovitch  
Kamelia Mirdamadi

ASSOCIATES  
Alison Arshinoff  
Melissa Shlanger

CEO  
Bryan Keshen

HON. TREASURER  
Donald Bennett, C.A

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR  
Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich

FOUNDING CHAIR  
Rabbi Joseph Kelman zt'l

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Sandy Keshen

LIFE DIRECTOR  
Joseph Berman z'l

FOUNDING PRESIDENT/TREASURER  
Lou Fruitman z'l

Charitable No. 10809-3642-RR0001  
2023-2024

Reena: Driving Change to Meet  
Growing Needs.

His Worship Steven Del Duca  
Mayor  
City of Vaughan

Re: Proposed bylaw that would prohibit demonstrations that intimidate, or incite hatred, violence or intolerance within 100 metres of our vulnerable social infrastructure

I am writing to you on behalf of Reena, an organization committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities through comprehensive support services. Our mission at Reena is to ensure the well-being and quality of life for all members of our community, which is why we are reaching out to express our strong support for the recent by-law proposed in Vaughan.

Reena provides a range of vital services, including residential support, respite programs, Community Participation, Summer Camps, and advocacy. These services are crucial for the individuals we support, many of whom rely on the safety of our facilities to thrive.

The by-law proposes to prohibit demonstrations within 100 meters of places of worship, congregate care settings, schools, child-care centres, and hospitals, and is a significant step forward in protecting our community's vulnerable social infrastructure from protests that may incite hatred, intolerance, and violence.

For the individuals supported by Reena, this by-law ensures that their access to our services remains uninterrupted and free from the distress that can be caused by demonstrations near our facilities. It also reinforces the sense of security and peace that is essential for their well-being. It is essential that congregate care settings be included in the definition in the by-law to protect the most vulnerable from being targets of intentional disruption and psychological harm.

In March 2024, Reena witnessed first-hand how demonstrations, even when lawful, can inadvertently create an atmosphere of intimidation and fear. Such an environment is detrimental to the mental health of the individuals we serve, many of whom are particularly sensitive to loud noises and large, unpredictable crowds.



IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
Charles Chee

CHAIR  
Wendy Bellack-Viner

VICE CHAIR  
Eitan Dehtiar

SECRETARY  
Dr. Faisal Saeed

CHAIR –  
Governance/ Nominations  
Rachel Blumenfeld

CHAIR –  
Continuous Quality  
Improvement  
Jodi Kaiman

TREASURER AND CHAIR –  
Finance Committee Steve Walsh

DIRECTORS  
Dr. Alan Bardikoff  
Rick Chad  
Mindy Ginsler  
Tova Gutenber  
David MacCoy  
Michael Manett  
Dr. Sharon Marcovitch  
Kamelia Mirdamadi

ASSOCIATES  
Alison Arshinoff  
Melissa Shlanger

CEO  
Bryan Keshen

HON. TREASURER  
Donald Bennett, C.A

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR  
Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich

FOUNDING CHAIR  
Rabbi Joseph Kelman zt'l

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Sandy Keshen

LIFE DIRECTOR  
Joseph Berman z'l

FOUNDING PRESIDENT/TREASURER  
Lou Fruitman z'l

Charitable No. 10809-3642-RR0001  
2023-2024

Reena: Driving Change to Meet  
Growing Needs.

Individuals supported by Reena were put at risk when protesters engaged them in conversation. Some hid in their rooms out of fear, and all had to change the routines of their daily life with cancelled programs and services.

By safeguarding the perimeters of our facilities, the by-law directly contributes to the stability and predictability that are so important for the daily routines of those with developmental disabilities and severe mental health challenges. It allows us to continue providing uninterrupted care and support, fostering an environment where every individual feels safe and valued.

We commend the city council's commitment to protecting its residents and thank you for your leadership in this matter. Reena strongly supports the need for this proposed by-law and stands ready to collaborate with the city to ensure the successful implementation of this by-law and to promote the safety and dignity of all community members.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Bryan Keshen  
CEO