

C40.

Communication

CW(2) – June 18, 2024

Item No. 23

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Assunta Ferrante](mailto:Assunta.Ferrante)
Subject: FW: [External] proposed by law
Date: Friday, June 14, 2024 10:13:47 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Council@vaughan.ca
Subject: [External] proposed by law

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Hello Vaughan City council,

Firstly, I strongly applaud your efforts, initiated by Vaughan mayor: Steven Del Duca to put a stop to the sickening and hateful behaviour that is happening on the streets of Vaughan, and all across Canada. I, personally, was at the "demonstrations", which I more aptly refer to as: "hate fests" outside the two Vaughan synagogues on Clarke avenue in March of this year. As a Canadian citizen and psychotherapist, I never believed they could occur in this country and they changed me forever. The roots of this behaviour stem from the horrific events of October 7th that occurred in southern Israel. Since that time, antisemitism has risen to a degree not seen since the end of World War Two and Nazi Germany. If you recall, during that time, six million Jews were murdered solely because they were Jewish. Perhaps you might say to yourselves: "that was 80 years ago; it can't happen again..."? Will I have news for you; Adolf Hitler was democratically elected and, after he was, he slowly set out to destroy the Jewish people, one small act at a time, which eventually culminated in the Holocaust. With the hate we are now seeing on the streets of the city of Vaughan, unless government officials quickly put a stop to this behaviour, it will only get worse. Since October 7th, the world has turned from understanding of and sympathy for the world's Jewish state, which is, of course, the only democracy in the Middle East and a bastion of freedom and hope for the whole world, to vilification of it. And why? Because it is attempting to defend itself from an act of terror, so horrific, it is impossible to describe in words. As elected officials, you have an opportunity here to make a morally-based decision. These opportunities do not come around very often. I implore you to do the right thing and pass this by bylaw, so that, not only your Jewish constituents, but members of all religious faiths in Vaughan communities, are protected with their charter enshrined rights to practice their faiths, free of discrimination and persecution.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zeilig MSW, RSW