

From: [REDACTED]
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Council@vaughan.ca
Subject: [External] In support of the 100 metre protest by law
Date: Sunday, June 16, 2024 9:45:20 PM

C68.
Communication
CW(2) – June 18, 2024
Item No. 23

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Dear City of Vaughan,

I write to you in support of the by law to prohibit protests within 100 metres of houses of worship. As a clerical leader (Rabbi) as well as a teacher in a school in Vaughan, and a parent of children who attend schools in Vaughan- this by law is long overdue, and much needed. Our citizens have been traumatized. Our collective history has had far too many individuals target our law abiding youngsters and citizens attending worship services and communal events- and attending school! Choosing houses of worship to protest, violently so, with tactics aimed at intimidating the vulnerable is abhorrent. As a city, we must collectively work together to maintain order, and prevent the intimidation of our citizens by Palestinian supporters aimed at harming our peace and sense of security as we live our free lives in Vaughan. Today it is pro Palestinians set on intimidating worshipers, but tomorrow, it may be someone else, inching in on the house of worship of someone else in Vaughan. How critical, how historic is this time and place, to And for this, it is so important that we have this by law in effect, so that our children, and community can continue to thrive peacefully, and that our communities maintain that ever so important inherent respect, and honour for those houses of worship that make up our cultural richness.

This past March, we witnessed a notorious day in our history. One that saw hundreds of students purposefully intimidated. Hundreds of masked, angry, megaphone yielding individuals slandering, jeering and mocking our religious and cultural beliefs in front of our own house of Worship. As you know, Vaughan is home to one of the largest synagogue centres in the world- the BAYT, which itself brought development and robust community to an otherwise undeveloped Spring Farm. It is on the sidewalk right in front of that building and community worship centre, that throngs of individuals stood for hours trying to intimidate our way of life, in our own community. How beneficial would it be to prevent such heinous acts hatred from occurring again. How beneficial for our children to know, that right here in Vaughan, we made history, and took a stand to shoulder and protect our houses of worship, and the people that make them so important.

I send my most sincere wishes for the by law to be successfully implemented as soon as possible, and others in its spirit. I commend Mayor Del Duca for his leadership in this monumental gesture of humanity and community spirit.

Thank you,

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Sincerely,
Rabbi C.R. Kohn, OCT, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.
Grade 5 Rebbe

Special Education and Resource Teacher
Yeshivas Eitz Chaim



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