

**C21.**  
**Communication**  
**CW(2) – June 18, 2024**  
**Item No. 23**

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [Assunta Ferrante](mailto:Assunta.Ferrante)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Bylaw to protect schools and places of worship  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 8:20:44 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Karen & Idan Shlesinger [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:00 PM  
To: [councillors@vaughan.ca](mailto:councillors@vaughan.ca); [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
Subject: [External] Bylaw to protect schools and places of worship

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Dear Councillors,

As you are aware, on Monday March 18, 2024, Mayor Steven Del Duca announced that he will be putting forth a member's resolution to Vaughan city council, asking for a bylaw to be passed that is designed to protect places of worship, schools, childcare centres and hospitals from unruly protestors. As you deliberate over the proposed bylaw aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of all citizens of Vaughan, I urge you to let your moral compass guide your decision-making process. Each of you has taken an oath to uphold Canadian values that form the bedrock of our community, and now is the time to honor that commitment wholeheartedly.

With this in mind, I urge you to vote in favour of this very important and dire motion. As we have all seen, the streets of Toronto and the GTA, have been plagued with hate-filled, anti-democracy rallies weekend after weekend, and Vaughan has not been immune to these targeted demonstrations. In recent weeks we have seen targeted protests at multiple places of worship, childcare centres and at a residence housing vulnerable individuals right here in Thornhill. These events have been very distressing to the entire community, leaving many feeling unsafe and vulnerable, feelings that have been magnified by York Regional Police failing to keep these protestors a safe distance from places of worship and other social infrastructure.

By supporting this bylaw, you not only fulfill your duty as elected representatives to prioritize the safety and well-being of all residents, but also demonstrate your unwavering dedication to the values that define our Canadian community.

The City of Vaughan can make a clear statement that while we all have the right to peaceful protest, it cannot come at the expense of other people's right to worship and practice their religion, nor can those protests be allowed to incite hatred and fear towards specific religious and ethnic groups or target other sensitive institutions. These tactics have led to residents of many backgrounds feeling intimidated and reluctant to go out in the community, thereby impacting the local economy. By passing this resolution, it will restore a sense of safety and security throughout the City of Vaughan.

Residents of Vaughan have chosen to live here for its cultural diversity and safety. We have placed our trust in your hands, believing that you will champion our rights and protect our interests with diligence and integrity. We thank you for working hard to make Vaughan a safe and welcoming community for all residents.

Regards, Sent from my iPhone