

Ward 10 • Gloucester-Southgate



Aria Alavi
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Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?

Yes

Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?

I will use my social media platform to inform public about this important issue.

Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?

Yes, I will

Q4 . Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?

Yes

Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?

Yes

Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?

Yes

Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?

I will make a motion in the city council for this issue.

Jessica Bradley - no responses

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Taylor Houstoun

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Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?

Yes, or rather that antisemitism is proportionately represented by need and severity.

Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?

The city can engage in public outreach and otherwise encourage social cohesion in a light-touch fashion. Encouraging people to interact with the Jewish community, publicly embracing Jewish holidays (Shana Tovah), or encouraging the use of services like JFS can go a long way to breaking down old prejudices.

Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?

I support this so long as it is not disproportionately done. Criminal matters are naturally for the police to oversee and manage.

Q4. Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?

I believe that policing needs both a reorganization in Ottawa and that crime committed for irrational hateful reasons should not be any more punished than crime committed for rationally hateful reasons. I feel like this can be used as a way to abuse the judicial process and extract harsher penalties from the same crimes. That being said, I am happy that there is a unit within the police that applies specialist knowledge to investigate, process, and prevent hate crime in the city given just how dangerous it can ultimately be.

Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?

It is a reasonable definition of antisemitism that clearly defines targeting Jewish people for being Jewish, so yes.

Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate?

cate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?

It will depend on the availability of city funds. I want this for any organization that does this type of work, but ultimately we will have to prioritize due to the debt we're in and due to facing 8% inflation.

Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?

I currently do not know what issues these specific programs face and thus can not comment. However, I am considering that it may be necessary to seek city funding for food banks in the Ottawa region due to increased usage. So long as kosher/halal food was not significantly more expensive by contrast, I would fully expect to see it funded too.



Ron Keays

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Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?

Yes.

Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?

By listening to the Jewish community, and encouraging inclusiveness from the outset.

Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?

Yes.

Q4. Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?

Yes.

Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?

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with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?

Yes.

Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?

By working with the Ottawa Food Policy Council and other community groups to improve food distribution



Hussein Mahmoud

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Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?

I will advocate to ensure anti-Semitism is a part of all anti-racism programs. Being a visible minority and having a muslim name, I have been subjected to hate myself - I've grown up surrounded by religious community leaders who taught me the importance of respecting religious freedoms and equality, and standing in solidarity with other minority communities who have been historically and presently marginalized for their backgrounds and beliefs. We need to ensure all residents feel safe and are not subjected to hate here in Ottawa across our communities.

Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?

I aspire to be a representative for all residents of Ward 10 as a city councillor - to me this means being an engaged and proactive listening voice to hear the advocacy of Jewish community groups and resident groups here in Gloucester-Southgate, as well as across the city. I think we need to be knocking on doors more than just during an election season and ensure that we are listening to all our community voices to understand their experiences and take action on their needs. This means taking action to condemn anti-semitism when community groups are reporting rates of anti-semitic crime, but also to ensure our youth, families and seniors of Jewish background (and all racialized and religious groups) feel safe from hate in all forms in our city.

Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?

It's a deeply concerning reality that Jewish community members need to be concerned with safety during important cultural and religious times of year - I support the responsible use of municipal funds to ensure that our communities are being made safer and that we are taking steps to ensure we have adequate resources allocated to public safety teams. No community should have to bear this burden alone. To me, this means supporting the Jewish community as a councillor to ensure that our public police service are being liaised with

so that local precincts can supply extra officers, re-allocate duties, and ensure that we have an added security presence to protect the community without adding costs to our budget lines, or the budgets of religious groups.

Q4. Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?

As someone deeply committed to increasing community safety, I am in favour of ensuring our police services have the resources they need allocated towards direct initiatives that our communities are asking for and are in need of - this includes the Hate Crimes unit. We have seen an uptick in anti-semitic hate crimes in the city, and this is a trend I take seriously as someone who grew up in a religious minority community myself. We need sufficient resources for our communities to turn to for support, and likewise, need to be listening to our religious groups to ensure that they are receiving the services they need to feel safe from our police, its units, and our broader community safety programs.

Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?

I think it's important that Ottawa City Council is listening to the voices of community groups like IHRA, as well as collaborating well with other levels of government to reflect a current and respectful understanding of the experience of religious and cultural minorities. This includes having discussions with community leaders about the importance and context of definitions of hate and discrimination, and ensuring that we normalizing having a dialogue on these topics and are gaining community input to reflect community realities on council.

Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?

I am familiar with the work that Tamir has been championing and I have a great deal of respect and appreciation for their work advocating for differently-abled communities and those with autism. Now that pandemic restrictions have lifted, it is important that we are resuming key programs, upgrades, and services that were stalled since 2020, including those like Tamir in need of upgraded facilities. As a councillor I would aspire to meet with representatives from Tamir to discuss ways forward to advance their plans for upgrades and expanded services.

Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?

As a Muslim community member, this is a personal issue to me as I only eat Halal meat. It is vital city councillors recognize our city is a diverse place that has residents with specific dietary and religious needs, and that Kosher and Halal options should be accessible to our most vulnerable. There is always a way to balance fiscal responsibility in budgeting with impactful and effective social programs - I am an advocate of supporting the targeted funding and resources that meals on wheels and food bank programs need to expand service provision in a religiously sensitive and compassionate way. If we can start providing Kosher and Halal options to our vulnerable communities, it will go a long way.

John Redins - *no responses*

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