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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 and also anti Islamaphobia material.

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

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) has a good resource on confronting Islamaphobia for cities as part of their London Family Act advocacy. I suspect your community also has similar resources on their issues of antisemitism. I do expect the Equity Office to be strengthened in the next term. At the personal level, I commit to zero tolerance for racist remarks, ongoing education on the meaning for cliches which have their roots in hate, more work to have groups collaborate, pushing to have high holidays blocked off when scheduling important community consultation dates.

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?

We do have police presence at times. I am not sure what additional staffing is required. I am not certain how the costs are allocated now. I had assumed the city paid for police presence outside Jewish (and other at risk) community events.

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

Yes, this is not an area we need to defund or retask. We need more training and resources for the Hate Crimes unit.

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, but words are not enough. The words need to be backed by action.

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?

The Tamir vision of “standing tall” resonates with me. I am committed to assisting developmentally disabled people. I am not sure why public funding would be segregated by religious belief. I expect the integration into Jewish life to be a privately funded activity of the Jewish community to supplement other secular publically funded programs to promote integration and inclusion. The Tamir website does not tell me enough about what the program does or the state of its plans and funding to commit to funding in the next 4 years. It appears to be the very early stages of discussion. (Perhaps my quick search did not find English pages on the program.) In essence, I commit to being an ally for inclusion but limited funding should be given to public programs for all before specialized programs for one community group.

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?

Yes, the food programs need to be adjusted to support all the diverse needs of elders including kosher, hahal and other cultural or religious needs. This would also extend into hospital and prison food programs, shelter food services and school breakfast programs. It will take work with various other levels of government to get the appropriate food support for all.

Tim Tierney *(incumbent) No response*

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