

Ward 8 • College

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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?

Although I have experience initiating anti-racist organizational change efforts as an organizational leader, I am growing to understand that anti-racism programs often do not include specific anti-semitism training. This is a concern as we see anti-semitic acts of hate are on the rise, and so I would support that anti-semitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs. We also have recent examples of anti-semitism training being implemented in other public institutions that has harmed the relationship with the Jewish community, as the community felt it was not appropriately consulted or listened to. Since I am not a member of this community myself, I will have to engage often and honestly with those with lived experience about my own gaps in understanding on this issue and be sure to acknowledge that I am always learning.

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

An important part of my role as City Councillor would be to listen to and act upon the concerns of marginalized communities in College Ward and throughout the city, including the Jewish community. I will support initiatives and programs to eliminate anti-semitism, but as with any issue, initiatives should only be undertaken after proper and meaningful consultation with the community. It's important to recognize that anti-semitism is a unique form of hatred that may share space with anti-racism and anti-colonial projects, but cannot be addressed as though it is one and the same. I am committed to open communication with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to identify problems and work toward solutions that the City can play a role in resolving. Like any form of hate, there is no place for it in our city or College Ward.

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?

Jewish places of worship are important to our community and should not bear the cost of protecting themselves from harm. While it is reasonable and sometimes required for event planners to provide security for a

special event, the role of private security is to ensure that the guests of the private event behave in a safe and legal manner, not to protect the event from hate crimes. If a community is at risk of violence, then the City has a responsibility to ensure they are safe.

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

The Hate Crimes Unit is an important tool in our public safety toolbox to end anti-semitic crimes in Ottawa. For example, throughout the West end at the end of 2021, police investigated a series of anti-semitic posters. This investigation led to the arrest and charging of an Ottawa man. While I believe in continued funding for the Hate Crimes unit, I share the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's belief that the best way to combat anti-semitism is through education. The mandate of the Hate Crimes unit should also include creating partnerships with community groups, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, to provide education to combat the root cause of anti-semitism: a lack of understanding and knowledge.

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, I support the adoption of that definition of anti-semitism by the City of Ottawa, as it is both a pragmatic and symbolic commitment toward ending anti-semitism.

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?

All public health and social services in our community should be able to thrive and fulfill their important functions. We know that there are huge waitlists for support for people with disabilities, and autism is a particular area where Ontario is falling behind. I come from the nonprofit sector and I know firsthand how critical these services are on a tight budget, where capital and operating costs are a challenge to bear. Tamir provides critical services to the Jewish community in a culturally appropriate way and, rather than reinvent the wheel, we should be investing in proven programs.

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 know that currently, the Jewish community supports its own food bank, including food box donations at College Square and through Jewish Family Services. I appreciate that the community work often stands alone and is looking for various levels of government to support the work that currently is only undertaken by Jewish organizations. I will strive to work toward ending the root causes of food insecurity, such as housing precarity, but also work toward expanding funding opportunities so that culturally-appropriate food banks have the resources they need.

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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 am a National Executive Director for CAPE and co-chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee. Antisemitism is already something that I am concerned about. When there are any opportunities to bring awareness or show my support for this cause I will be very glad to help.

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?

Absolutely. This is what police are for, to protect the citizens of Ottawa

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?

Absolutely

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 am not familiar with how the food bank programs operate yet, sorry. I need to learn more before I can properly answer this question.



Pat McGarry

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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. Ensuring that both internal and external facing resources continue to support training in how to identify, address and oppose antisemitic beliefs is foundational to fostering an inclusive community and I will advocate to ensure this continues.

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

I believe I have both a personal and a professional responsibility to identify and oppose hate, violence and intolerance in all its forms whenever it is encountered. Antisemitism is exceptionally important to name and oppose. I will work with community partners to bring attention to antisemitism should it occur, and make every attempt to foster a climate of caring and inclusivity in College ward and in our city as a whole.

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. It is important to recognize, however, that these officers are paid for by third parties and my support for their presence falls outside the city police budget.

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

Yes. Supporting the ongoing work of the Hate Crimes unit to dedicate resources specifically to investigating and prosecuting the criminal aspects of hate is a critical element on the continuum of opposing antisemitic intolerance.

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. Tamir delivers exceptional services to families across our community at its residential facilities in neighbourhoods across Ottawa. Ensuring that these facilities provide healthy, positive and safe homes in which residents can prosper is work I would support. I would support the use of municipal funds to these ends and the leveraging of other public or non-profit funds, as appropriate. I am also prepared to be a personal champion and ally for the stated Tamir initiatives.

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?

Ensuring that there is equity in support of the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank and other food security programming for residents with diverse nutritional needs is critical. I will work with City staff and community support agencies in the non-profit ecosystem to ensure that there is equitable investment and attention on the food support needs of our entire population so that no resident is faced with having to choose between their faith and their healthy nutrition.