

From: Joanne Cohen
Sent: December 5, 2022 2:53 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: CBC: Hamilton Mayor Orders Audit of Hamilton Municipal Election Practices and Concerns Re Voter Lists

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/mayor-audit-municipal-election-2022-hamilton-1.6674414>

Mayor Horwath and Council,

In light of this CBC report on a forthcoming audit of Hamilton's Municipal Election practices would it be possible to arrange consideration toward addressing the community security issues I and others have previously raised with regard to release of voter lists to fringe candidates or those with troubling affiliations to neoNazi hate groups?

Canada's Anti Hate Network and others have expressed serious concerns with the continued and repeated candidacy of Paul Fromm a noted Canadian neoNazi and Holocaust denier noted for his racist and antisemitic and homophobic views.

He has a large and growing network of support in Hamilton and some of his supporters may have been associated with racist and anti immigration protests at City Hall in summer 2019 as well as violence at Hamilton Pride in 2019.

Hamilton continues to have the leading rate of hate crimes in Canada.

The previous statements by the City spokesperson that candidates are issued voter lists on condition of an oath not to misuse the information are inadequate reassurance to a community already at risk and concerned for its safety.

Could the City explore Calgary's protocol for protecting voter privacy and running municipal elections without release of voter lists to candidates?

Could the City legal department advise on the feasibility of conducting municipal elections without release of voter lists and related potential liability issues should residents' privacy or safety be harmed as a result of releasing this information on voters lists?

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanne Cohen

Hamilton, ON