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To: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group"](#)
Date: 3/24/2025 12:11:58 PM
Subject: FW: Update for M&C: Request to Ban Al-Quds day protests

My apologies all – meant to cc: City Manager’s Correspondence group

From: Singh, Sandra
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 11:58 AM
To: Direct to Mayor and Council
Cc: Direct to Mayor and Council
Subject: Update for M&C: Request to Ban Al-Quds day protests

Connell, Francie <francie.connell@vancouver.ca>

Hello Mayor and Council,

We have had a question about the B’nai Brith’s request to Canada’s largest cities to ban Al-Quds day protests.

Background

- B’nai Brith (and others) have called for the City and the Mayor to ban Al-Quds Day protests.
 - o On its website, B’nai Brith has posted a letter which it requests people to sign to be forwarded to the Mayors of Canada’s largest cities.
 - o The letter states that Al-Quds Day has a history of “hateful rhetoric, glorification of terrorism, and incitement of violence” and spreads “division and hatred”, alleging that it is not a peaceful demonstration but instead “undermines Canadian values, fuels extremism, and threatens public safety”.
 - o B’nai Brith opposes the event occurring on public property, hence the call for major cities across Canada to ban the protest.
 - o B’nai Brith indicates that it will occur in all cities on Friday, March 28th. The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center indicates that it will occur in Toronto on March 23rd.

- Staff were unable to locate any definitive information as to the date or location of the proposed Al-Quds Day protest in Vancouver, though, in the past, it has occurred at to šx n q Xwtl'e7e nku817 _ Square (the plaza of the Art Gallery).

Suggested response to queries

Should Council receive questions from media, please feel free to direct reporters to media@vancouver.ca. Should you receive questions from constituents with whom you wish to discuss directly, please consider the following key messages:

- The City does not issue permits for any rallies or protests, however, these events frequently take place on public property.
- In accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the City cannot prevent people from assembling on public property for the purpose of exercising their right of freedom of expression.
- The City recognizes that there are limitations on free speech and that it is an offence under the Criminal Code to make statements in public which incite hatred against any identifiable group.
- It is not possible to know in advance whether any speech that may occur at the Al-Quds Day protest will violate laws which relate to hate speech. Considerations as to whether any communication amounts to a breach of the provisions of the Criminal Code are within the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Police Department to address.
- If people have concerns about protests occurring on public property that, in their view, amounts to hate speech, they should be directed to refer their concerns to the police.
- Hatred and racism have no place in our city, and we expect any protest to be conducted in a peaceful, safe and non-violent manner.

Thank you,

Sandra

Sandra Singh | Deputy City Manager

City of Vancouver

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxlu817_wi7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.