

Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
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Statement by Councillor Paul W. Ainslie on London Attacks

June 11, 2021

I wanted to offer my sincerest condolences for the tragedy which occurred on Sunday, June 6, 2021 in London, Ontario. The loss of an entire family is unbearable to have them murdered due to hate is unconscionable. This deliberate act must be looked upon for what it is, and addressed immediately, to mourn for the Afzaal family and bring healing, and support to their 9-year-old son, brother, and grandson.

The unthinkable, violent murder, of this beautiful family for their Muslim faith is shameful and horrendous. I along with my City of Toronto colleagues am committed to supporting the call from the National Council of Canadian Muslims to implement a National Action Summit on Islamophobia with the participation of the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments. We must also call on the Provincial Government to reinstate the anti-racism directorate funding immediately and relaunch the Toronto For All Anti-Islamophobia public education campaign.

I am committed to working with our Muslim community and organizations towards a better system on how hate crimes are reported, and how our governments punish acts of hate. The creation of a community working group to develop an anti-hate strategy with anti-Islamophobia as a pillar is essential.

I have invited our faith leaders and organizations to join the City in the creation of a table, to bring suggestions on changing policies and practices, addressing service gaps, and most importantly teaching our youth not to hate through our local schools, and in all of our homes.

The City of Toronto will be reporting to the Executive Committee before the 2022 budget discussions begin to table the funding required to implement the new municipal supports and policies needed to address hate and Islamophobia in Toronto. It is important, we as a group put forward measures from our community to ensure the measures reflect these needs, to stop future heinous crimes of hate.

Every year, I have been proud to hire youth from the Muslim Fellowship Program and the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, calling upon them and welcoming the Muslim Youth Fellowship to work with us; I believe will only enhance our work. My office will also continue to work with the Scarborough Muslim Association as we put in place the programming and supports, we have been working towards in the last few months.

At this time, I stand together with the Muslim Community against hate, and to mourn the tragic events which took place on Sunday, June 6, 2021, and past events which have traumatized our City, Province, and country.

I am here to support the community in any need.

Sincerely,
Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
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