

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

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Chief Jim MacSween
York Regional Police
47 Don Hillock Dr.
Aurora, Ontario
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Dear Chief MacSween:

I write this letter regarding the December 18, 2022, mass shooting incident occurring at the 9235 Jane Street building. I am a resident of the 9235 Jane Street building who escaped the building physically unharmed during the active mass shooter incident. Other coping issues remain to be a struggle. In large part, I was able to exit the building safely due partly to 'dumb luck' but more importantly due to the bravery and professionalism of responding York Regional Police officers.

The purpose of writing is to inform you that I am requesting an opportunity to make a brief public comment to the York Regional Police Services Board. My comment will involve two specific topics: 1) Provide a public thank you to acknowledge the York Regional Police Officers who bravely responded to the Dec. 18 mass shooting and 2) Provide a statement on my observations related to the opportunities supporting and barriers working against the long-term community recovery prospects for persons impacted by the mass shooting.

By circumstance, I have assumed greater responsibility in the situation of being a stakeholder with direct interest in the community disaster recovery process. I act in professional settings, as a Professor of Emergency Management at York University with subject matter expertise in human-induced disasters, mass violence, and terrorism.

In the immediate aftermath of the mass shooting, I was contacted by Inspector Skinner (1312@yrp.ca) and he was most professional and helpful in initially getting the ball rolling for victim services to become involved.

However, in recent interactions with the City of Vaughan, I am afraid that city level officials may not be treating the situation with the urgency needed or understanding required to facilitate community-level recovery from the mass shooting. Additional and sustained mental health and coping resources are acutely needed for residents of the 9235 Jane Street building where dozens of persons were directly exposed to mass violence.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jack Rozdilsky
Maple, Ontario