

Response from Scott Blurton

Thank you for contacting me. I believe that everyone has the right to walk the streets of Ottawa safely without fear of harassment or violence.

I believe that the best thing that the city can do is expand its Open Data initiative so that the public has access to information regarding the geographical location of complaints or incidents of harassment, violence and other crimes (consolidated into large enough blocks or regions to protect individual privacy) so that our residents can identify where problem locations exist and place public pressure on the city to take action to address these problem areas.

This summer, the Ottawa Citizen used numerous access to information requests to collect the data it needed to create a map showing where incidents of sexual assault were most prominent in Ottawa. The public should not have to go through access to information in order to get this data which is so pertinent to their safety. With an expansion of Open Data, initiatives like the Ottawa Citizen would become the rule and not the exception.

Furthermore, we need to work harder to ensure that our major bus stops are safe havens where people will have access to emergency services and security through supervision, either manned or more likely through security cameras. This is especially true for our O-Train stations. If we want people to use public transit, then they have to feel safe using it.

As part of my "[Transportation Choice](#)" Platform, I advocate for a focus on transportation security, including an early expansion of the O-Train to South Keys Station to ensure that people coming out of the movie theatre after a late showing don't have to walk across the massive, empty and unsupervised parking lot at South Keys in order to reach the O-Train.

As part of my "[Smart Development](#)" Platform, I advocate "Security" as one of my nine principles in evaluating development projects.

I also look forward to working with the community and committed stakeholders to improve the security of our great city.

Nobody should have to walk the streets in fear. As your Councillor, I will work towards making this a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.