

Susan Sherring
Ward 22 Gloucester-South Nepean

To begin with – thank you to Hollaback for raising this issue during the municipal election campaign and for all your efforts to build awareness and seek change.

To me there is no greater responsibility for municipal government or any government than the safety of its citizens. But when it comes to ending gender-based violence – that is a challenge for all sectors of society.

That said, in principle, I support your five priority areas. The challenge is – how do we pay for them? Who is responsible for implementing change?

As a candidate for council I believe strongly in the need to look at all measures and programs in the context of the budget at large – I cannot and will not support specific investments without a detailed analysis of budgetary impact.

Generally --I would like to see greater cooperation and ongoing consultation with community-based organizations like Hollaback in terms of identifying issues and priorities.

I want ongoing analysis of the efficacy of OC Transpo's security initiatives – including the use of special constables. Are we utilizing technology in the most effective way possible in terms of safety? Are we updating our safety audits of transit stations – in order to deploy best practices such as improved lighting? Are we seeking to improve our response time to investigate safety complaints – as these complaints can be an early indication of a public safety risk?

For large events – we need to work closely with event organizers to ensure they have made safety a priority.

I believe education and awareness are critical when it comes to gender-based violence and that education must be ongoing and happen at all levels.

As is the case with most things – naming the problem and articulating the issue is a first step. Seeking solutions means bringing everyone to the table