

Ward 1 - Etobicoke North

Responding Candidates:

[Chloe Brown](#)

[Norman Hamilton](#)

[Nathen Mazri](#)

[Hard Parmar](#)

Chloe Brown	
Questions	Responses
1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy	Strongly agree
2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.	Strongly agree
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Neither agree nor disagree
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Mildly agree
5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.	Neither agree nor disagree I believe By-Law Officers are certified to do this work without needing Special Constable status.
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	First, I'll ensure that a portion of fees from pet businesses goes directly back into improving our off-leash parks. When pet groomers, daycares, and trainers pay their licence fees, that money should support the public spaces their customers use every day. Second, we need to invest in the basics: clear signage, regular maintenance, and more parks where they're needed most. The City has 1new off-leash areas in the works—I'll make sure they're built right and kept right.

	Finally, I'll listen to the community. I'll establish local park committees so residents have a real say in how their neighbourhood off-leash areas are run so that we can build a culture where responsible ownership is valued and rewarded.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	First, I'll build a partnership with veterinarians and animal shelters so we are prepared before problems escalate. If a vet notices a pattern of neglect or dangerous behaviour, they should have a confidential way to report it to the City, so we can step in early and prevent problems before they happen. Second, I'll partner with CNIB Guide Dogs and other accredited trainers to create a voluntary "Responsible Pet Owner Certification." Think of it like a Good Driver program for dog owners—complete training, get discounts on your licence, and enjoy premium access to our best parks. Finally, I will use data on where and when problems occur, we'll put enforcement officers where they're needed most—and we'll report publicly on what we're achieving.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	First, I'll make licensing easy. When you take your dog to the vet, you should be able to get a licence right there—no extra trip, no hassle. I'll partner with veterinarians and shelters to make this happen. Second, I'll reward responsible owners. If you complete a certified training program through trusted organizations like CNIB Guide Dogs—you'll get a discount on your licence, access to pet-friendly restaurants and events, etc. Training saves lives, and we should encourage it. Third, I'll shift the message. Instead of treating licensing like a tax, we'll promote it as what it really is: the best way to protect your pet. We'll raise awareness of the BluePaw program so licensed owners get discounts at local pet stores, groomers, and daycares. Finally, there will be consequences for non-compliance. We'll enforce the rules fairly and visibly with the goal of getting pets licensed, not just writing tickets.

Norman Hamilton	
Questions	Responses
1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy	Strongly agree I support responsible off Leash opportunities while ensuring the City follows through on Council approved strategies. As Councillor, I will advocate for effective implementation of the 2020 Off Leash Strategy, with a focus on safety, responsible pet ownership, appropriate spaces, and balancing the needs of dog owners with those of all residents who use our parks and public spaces.
2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.	Strongly agree I strongly support protecting our environmentally significant areas and community green spaces. Where necessary, appropriate fencing and fair enforcement should be used to prevent illegal off Leash activity, while ensuring responsible dog owners continue to have access to safe and properly designated off Leash areas. Protecting our natural spaces and ensuring everyone can safely enjoy our parks must go hand in hand.
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Strongly disagree Education is an important part of the solution, but education alone will not resolve the City's off-leash dog challenges. We also need accessible designated off-leash areas, clear signage, responsible pet ownership, consistent enforcement, and meaningful community engagement. The goal should be a balanced approach that protects public safety while ensuring residents and dog owners can enjoy our shared public spaces responsibly.
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Mildly agree I support reasonable by-law enforcement to help keep our parks and public spaces safe for everyone. Enforcement should be balanced with education, clear signage and accessible designated off-leash areas. Increased patrols should focus on locations where repeated complaints or safety concerns have been identified.

5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.	Mildly agree I support giving by-law officers the appropriate tools and authority needed to enforce our by-laws effectively. However, any additional powers should include proper training, clear accountability, oversight, and respect for residents' rights. The goal should be fair and consistent enforcement that keeps our communities safe.
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	I would support clear signage, public education, proper maintenance, waste stations, and consistent bylaw enforcement to encourage responsible use of off-leash areas.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	I would advocate for dedicated enforcement funding and better use of existing resources to ensure off-leash rules are consistently enforced, while keeping costs reasonable for taxpayers.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	Dog licensing is important for responsible pet ownership and funding animal services. I support making licensing easier, affordable, and better promoted to increase participation.

Nathen Mazri

Questions

Responses

1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy

Strongly agree
Strongly agree. Nathen Mazri supports the full implementation of Council's 2025 Dogs Off-Leash Strategy, with measurable accountability for maintenance, cleanliness, safety and bylaw enforcement. He believes designated off-leash areas should be well maintained, while sidewalks and public spaces remain safe for residents, especially seniors, children and people with disabilities. He also supports incorporating coyote-related safety concerns into enforcement planning and ensuring that Council's directions translate into visible improvements for residents and responsible dog owners.

2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.

Strongly agree

3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.

Strongly agree

4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.

Strongly agree

5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.

Strongly agree

6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are

Nathen Mazri supports cleaner, safer and better-maintained off-leash areas, with adequate fencing, drainage, waste disposal and clear signage. He would advocate for regular inspections, community feedback and improvements that

more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	encourage responsible dog ownership while protecting other park users.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	Nathen believes building dog parks without adequately funding enforcement leaves the job unfinished. He would advocate for dedicated enforcement resources, targeted patrols in problem areas and publicly reported enforcement results. Existing budgets should also be reviewed to identify efficiencies before requesting additional taxpayer funding. Make it beautiful
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	Dog licensing is essential to animal welfare, responsible ownership and funding Toronto's animal services. Nathen supports simplifying online registration, improving public awareness, offering convenient registration through veterinarians and community events, and using targeted reminders and proportionate enforcement to increase compliance.

Hard Parmar

Questions	Responses
1. As Councillor, I will advocate for staff to meaningfully fulfill the directions given by Council as part of the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy	Strongly agree
2. As Councillor, I will support fencing and enforcement where needed to ensure that Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces are protected from illegal off-leash activity.	Strongly agree
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Strongly disagree
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Strongly agree I support increased, targeted patrols in locations with persistent non-compliance, safety concerns, wildlife conflicts or environmentally sensitive areas. Education and warnings should remain part of the approach, but repeated or deliberate violations should result in meaningful enforcement. Resources should be deployed using complaint and incident data so taxpayers receive effective enforcement rather than simply more bureaucracy.
5. As Councillor, I will support by-law officers having Special Constable status to give officers the authority to require ID and to facilitate the enforcement of all by-laws, including off-leash by-laws.	Neither agree nor disagree
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	Better fencing and gates, appropriate surfacing and drainage, waste facilities, clear signage, adequate maintenance, and where feasible separate areas for smaller or more vulnerable dogs. I would also support reviewing where off-leash areas are located so that residents have reasonable access without

	compromising environmentally sensitive areas or other park uses. Improvements should be guided by community input and usage data, with priority given to locations where better facilities can help reduce illegal off-leash activity elsewhere in the park.
7. Even where off-leash areas exist, we see illegal off-leash activity in adjacent parkland. Taxpayers fund the installation of new dog parks (at a current estimated budget of \$535,000 per park) and the maintenance of existing off-leash parks (\$9.5 million budgeted over the next 10 years) but the City has not included specific additional funds for off-leash enforcement as directed by Council. As Councillor, how would you address this discrepancy? (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation, 2025)	If the City has rules, those rules need to be enforced properly. I would support more targeted enforcement in areas where there are repeated complaints, safety concerns or wildlife issues. At the same time, I don't believe the answer is simply to keep adding staff and spending more money. I would want to see where the problems are happening, how current officers are being used, and whether extra resources would actually improve compliance.
8. Based on the City's estimate of over 600,000 dogs in the City of Toronto, (City of Toronto, General Manager, Parks and Recreation) and the number of licenses issued, only 8-11% of Toronto dogs are licensed (City of Toronto, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards). The money from licensing supports Toronto's Animal Shelters and could be used to support improving off-leash areas and providing support for by-law enforcement. As City Councillor, how important do you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	Dog licensing matters because responsible ownership includes both following the rules and contributing to the services that support animals across our city. With hundreds of thousands of dogs in Toronto but only a small percentage licensed, the current system is clearly not reaching enough owners. I would make licensing easier, increase awareness through veterinarians, shelters and pet businesses, improve renewal reminders, and protect affordable options for seniors and lower-income residents. Education and convenience should come first, but owners who knowingly and repeatedly avoid licensing should face appropriate enforcement.