

Ward 10 - Spadina-Fort York

Responding Candidates:

[Ian Cunningham](#)

[Xue Ding](#)

[Andi Hoàng-Lefranc](#)

[Ausma Malik](#)

[Paul Nash](#)

[Husain Neem](#)

Ian Cunningham

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.	Mildly agree
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.	Mildly 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?	Have seating, shade, water source, comfortable material for the dogs to run on.

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)	Ask city staff and by-law officers to identify where there are gaps and prioritize these areas.
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?	Increased education for dog owners about how licensing supports shelters and off-leash areas.

Xue Ding	
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 Council direction should lead to real implementation. I would support clear timelines and regular reporting so residents can see whether the Off Leash Strategy is actually improving parks and compliance.
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 Environmentally sensitive areas and shared green spaces need protection. Where off leash activity is causing repeated damage or conflict I support appropriate fencing and stronger enforcement while also maintaining good designated spaces for dog owners.
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Strongly agree Education is important but it cannot solve repeated non compliance on its own. Clear rules need consistent enforcement when education has not changed behaviour.
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Strongly agree Targeted patrols and ticketing are appropriate in areas with repeated violations. Enforcement should focus on problem locations and deterrence rather than simply issuing as many tickets as possible.
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 Bylaw officers need enough authority to enforce the rules they are responsible for. I would support exploring Special Constable status if the powers are clearly defined and paired with proper training and oversight.
6. As future Councillor, what are you prepared to do to improve off-leash areas so that they are	I will put clear signage and upgrade amenities to improve off-leash areas so that they are more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners.

more likely to be used in a responsible manner by dog owners?	
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 introduce a budget motion and audit directing Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) to establish a dedicated, self-sustaining enforcement fund supported by increased bylaw ticket revenue.
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?	I think dog license is a great idea and this is certainly important. It can regulate the funding of local animal shelters, and public health safety

Andi Hoang-LeFranc

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 Ultimately, the 2025 Off-Leash Strategy, like any other motions or strategies passed by council, should be acted on to completion rather than abandoned after being voted on. Given that residents care deeply about their furry family members, City Hall should put more attention towards making sure that all residents, humans and pets, are able to coexist safely among one another.
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 Toronto is often called "A City within a Park" and deterring illegal off-leash activity in Environmentally Significant Areas and community green spaces must be integral if the City aims to live up to this moniker.
3. I believe that education alone can be the solution to the City's off-leash dog challenges.	Strongly disagree Education can only be the initial step towards addressing the City's off-leash dog challenges. Without consistent enforcement, by-laws and official strategies are no more effective than suggestions. Enforcement reinforces the necessity of why residents should follow proper off-leash practices since illegal off-leash practices undermines the safety of the community and the wellbeing of other dogs.
4. I believe that increased by-law patrols and ticketing are needed to deter off-leash activity.	Strongly agree Like my previous answer, enforcement reinforces the necessity of why residents should follow proper off-leash practices since illegal off-leash practices undermines the safety of the community and the wellbeing of other dogs.
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 The system of how the City conducts by-law enforcement as whole must be re-examined and made more efficient, before consideration of granting Special Constable status to by-law officers. The granting of Special Constable status, before ensuring that the by-law enforcement system is operating as efficiently

	and effectively as it can, will potentially lead to heightened inefficiencies and less effective enforcement of by-laws overall.
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?	The lack of accessible and well-maintained public infrastructure is a major reason why off-leash areas and many other green spaces in the City are often underused. By reducing the hostile infrastructure that plagues our city's off-leash areas and green spaces, it will encourage more residents to actually occupy and enjoy these third-spaces. This can be done by increasing the amount of available seating, erecting more shade and cooling infrastructure, providing more specialised waste disposal options (especially for pet and organic waste), and ensuring paths are well maintained, just to highlight some of the improvements that can be made.
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 argue that off-leash enforcement should not be solely under the direction of the City's Parks and Recreational department. Instead, off-leash enforcement must be a joint obligation between Parks and Recreation and the City's by-law enforcement system. However, like I mentioned in my previous response, I argue that the City's by-law enforcement system must first be re-examined and made more efficient as a whole prior to exploring the expansion of by-law officers' official powers and responsibilities.
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	Like all residents, the City is also facing difficult economic challenges. Pet licensing should be seen as a potential avenue towards raising additional City revenue. In order to improve licensing rates, the City should undertake an educational approach as to the benefits of obtaining a dog license. Other municipalities across the world have increased their dog licensing rates by framing licensing as a tool towards reducing animal abuse or using the license as proof that the dog has received all its required vaccinations.

you think dog licensing is and what are your ideas to improve licensing rates?	
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Ausma Malik

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.

Mildly agree
I support fencing dog off leash areas and ensuring environmentally significant areas are protected. My experience has been that when park areas not for dogs are fenced off, they are more likely to become unauthorized dog off leash areas.

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

Strongly disagree
Addressing dogs off-leash will require meaningful behavioural change from dog owners, but bylaw enforcement is essential. We also need more designated dog-off leash spaces, as planned for in our Dog Off Leash Area Strategy.

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.

Mildly agree
I support examining all options to see how bylaw officers can have more authorities to strengthen their ability to enforce bylaws.

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?

Improving dog off-leash areas is a priority and should be advanced through dedicated funding and implementation of the Dog Off Leash Area Strategy, which looks holistically at needs across the City. It's important to me that there are safe spaces for dog owners and dogs across Ward 10 and our City. This means ensuring that we have smaller areas appropriate for small dogs, and that we are investing in the materiality of our spaces. I am committed to working alongside our downtown communities and investing in local off-leash areas. An

	example is releasing \$1.5 million in funding in 2025 for two new off-leash areas in Canoe Landing Park, including replacement of wood chips to artificial turf, new shade structures and entries, new lighting, shade structures, and water bottle filling stations, scheduled for construction start in Fall 2026. This helps reduce conflicts and enable everyone to enjoy our parks and public spaces.
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 have continually advocated for additional bylaw enforcement funding in the City Budget, including for Animal Services. I support additional funding for enforcement as a solution, as well as upstream, proactive ways to address the root of the problem. These include creative public education materials to affect behavioural change; sustained investments in the maintenance of existing parks and off-leash areas; and the creation of new dog off leash areas to keep dogs off leash in prescribed areas.
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 critical for the City to understand the usage and demands of our existing off-leash areas and parks, as well as the needs for dog-friendly infrastructure in our public spaces and new developments. I support additional funding for public education and enforcement to ensure that as many dogs as possible are being licensed.

Paul Nash

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.

Mildly agree

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.

Strongly 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?

I'm prepared to advocate for proper fencing and signage in addition to increased by-law enforcement officers.

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'll advocate for increased funding for enforcement and education.
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?	I think licensing has many benefits for the city and dog owners. I'll advocate for lower licensing fees and improved education on the benefits of licensing.

Husain Neem

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.	Mildly agree
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.	Strongly agree
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?	Improve seating areas and amenities in dog parks

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 ensure that Council's direction on off-leash enforcement is properly funded. It is not enough to invest in building and maintaining dog parks if there are insufficient resources to enforce the rules in surrounding parkland. I would support targeted enforcement in problem areas, clear reporting on patrols and tickets, and adequate funding in the operating budget to ensure residents and taxpayers see the full benefit of these investments.
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 because it supports animal services and responsible pet ownership. I would freeze licensing rates to keep them affordable, while improving compliance through easier online licensing, reminders, public education, and targeted enforcement. This would encourage more residents to license their dogs and strengthen funding for animal services and off-leash areas.