

Ward 24 - Scarborough-Guildwood

Responding Candidates:

[Jithender Mulamalla](#)

Jithender Mulamalla	
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 disagree
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 disagree
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 disagree
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 will focus on upgrading park infrastructure, increasing community education, and ensuring consistent enforcement of local by-laws

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)	To address this discrepancy, I would advocate for a reallocation of a portion of the existing \$9.5 million maintenance budget toward dedicated off-leash enforcement and public education campaigns. While infrastructure investment is critical, parks cannot function safely or equitably without proper oversight, meaning maintenance and enforcement must be viewed as interconnected priorities. Additionally, I would propose introducing a "community ambassador" program utilizing existing park staff to educate dog owners on-site, alongside implementing a targeted, data-driven enforcement strategy where bylaw officers focus on high-complaint adjacent parklands during peak hours. By optimizing current fiscal resources and leveraging fines generated from violations to directly fund future enforcement, we can respect taxpayer dollars, fulfill Council's directives, and ensure our shared green spaces remain safe and accessible for everyone
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 highly important because it directly funds animal shelters, expands off-leash areas, and sustains vital community safety enforcement. To improve Toronto's low compliance rate, the city can implement targeted financial incentives such as bundling license fees with microchipping discounts or offering first-year waivers for newly adopted pets. Accessibility can be significantly increased by building streamlined mobile renewal applications and partnering with local veterinary clinics to issue licenses directly during routine checkups. Finally, pairing public awareness campaigns with active, educational outreach at popular dog parks will reinforce accountability and highlight how licensing fees directly benefit local pet communities