

Written to the Editor of the Sun:

Sue-Anne Levy wrongly asserts in her column of March the 19th that the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and I are trying to do "everything we can" to ensure that Queers Against Israeli Apartheid ("Quaia") can march in the Pride Parade this year. This is totally false.

In its thorough review of Pride, CAP recommended a new rule requiring all groups marching in the Pride Parade to have a predominately LGBT message. There is also to be a ban on promoting hatred, using language that is identical to the rule used by the City itself. We also proposed a new system that, for the first time, will allow the effective enforcement of these rules.

CAP did not consider, let alone decide, whether any group is in violation of those rules. That job has rightly been left to Pride Toronto, which right now is setting up the necessary procedures to resolve any disputes.

Promoting hatred has no place in the Pride Parade, no matter who the messenger or the target may be. That is why we proposed a rule that applies to everyone, and not just one group. Special rules that only target unpopular groups have led to some of history's worst human rights abuses.

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM