

Council candidate calls out vandalism after campaign signs defaced in Waverley West



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Thank you, Winnipeg Free Press, for covering this important article – EXCERPT from the article:

Waverley West council candidate Nafiya Naso said 16 of her campaign signs were vandalized this week.

The signs, located along Waverley Street near Tim Sale Drive and across from École South Pointe School in southwest Winnipeg, had Naso's face scribbled over with spray paint and derogatory words written across her name and photograph, a news release from Naso's campaign said Saturday.

The release said other candidates' signs in the immediate area were not damaged.

A report has been filed with the Winnipeg Police Service, the release said.

Naso is asking anyone who witnessed the vandalism or has video or other information to contact police.

"This is bigger than a campaign sign," Naso said in the release. "People are free to disagree with me, my campaign or my political views — that is democracy. But when 16 signs are specifically targeted with derogatory graffiti, right across from an elementary school, it is deeply concerning."

The Free Press has reached out to Naso and city police for comment.

Naso's campaign said the graffiti resembles a tag that has appeared elsewhere in Waverley West over the past two years. It said the vandalism raises concerns about possible racism and intimidation.

"I will not be intimidated or discouraged from putting my name forward," Naso said. "I'm running because I believe in Waverley West and I care deeply about this community. We can disagree with one another without resorting to vandalism, intimidation or racism."

The campaign said the damaged signs will be replaced.

"This election should be about ideas, leadership and the future of our ward and city — not whether someone feels safe putting up a campaign sign," she said. "We can disagree politically and still treat one another with dignity and respect."

Five candidates have registered to run in the race to lead Waverley West, where incumbent Janice Lukes is not seeking re-election.

Jasmine Brar, Antar Banik, Uche Nwankwo and Yuanchao Li are also running for the council seat.

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