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To: Police Chief Eric Girt – Hamilton Police Services  
From: Susie Braithwaite, Vice Chair, Downtown Safe & Clean Task Force  
RE: Community Policing in Downtown Hamilton

Dear Chief Girt,

At the most recent Downtown Safe & Clean Task Force meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> a discussion of community policing in downtown Hamilton took place. I am sending this letter to you on behalf of the task force as vice chair in hopes that the issue of a lack of community policing in the core can be rectified.

In 2010 we saw the implementation of the ACTION Team in the downtown core. This program was a very efficient and effective way of cleaning up the policing issues that downtown Hamilton had been dealing with. Police presence was evident each day and it created a safe environment for business owners and community members. In recent years it has become evident that the ACTION Team has been pulled away from the core in order to patrol and work with other parts of the city. While we understand that this is a city funded program now, the consequence is that the core has been somewhat abandoned and there is very little police patrol on the streets of downtown Hamilton.

Additionally, we have also lost our King St. beat officer Kevin Beda who had a very strong presence in the core and the businesses especially have felt his absence. We have continually been told that a replacement for Kevin was in the works and still there is no King St. beat officer present. We have witnessed an increase in graffiti crime and aggressive panhandling that is creating an unsafe feeling in the core. The optics of an unsafe downtown are once again an issue where the ACTION Team had cleaned up this problem in the past. Because of this, businesses are suffering and community members are frustrated.

As members of the Downtown Safe & Clean Task Force we are asking that something be done about this growing issue downtown. We would like to see more police patrol at all hours in downtown Hamilton and are asking for your help.

Sincerely,

Susie Braithwaite  
Executive Director  
International Village, Vice-Chair Downtown Safe & Clean Task Force