

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Stevenson, Kirsten](#)
Subject: Body Worn Cameras for Hamilton Police Service
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6:13:18 PM

June 2, 2020

Hamilton Police Services Board
155 King William Street
P.O. Box 1060, LCD 1
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 4C1

To all concerned,

I am writing you concerning the implementation of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) by police services from the RCMP to local municipal departments. As things currently stand, the implementation of them is very inconsistent. Over the past six years, the use of BWC's has been assessed and studied from Public Safety Canada down to the individual services. Their use either gets voted down repeatedly as is the case with the Hamilton Police Service or it seems slow to get the institutional gears rolling, as with the Toronto Police Service. The need for them is becoming more and more apparent and cases can be made for the net benefit to using them. It is also the right thing to do in terms of accountability, transparency, and public trust in the various police services. I hope that you will do everything you can to bring about positive change in this area.

At this time, the string of abuses of power by law enforcement officials in the United States is at the forefront of the news and in our minds. Canada faces those same sort of issues, regardless of police officials in this country claiming otherwise, as with Chief Eric Girt in November of 2019. The issue of racial bias by police officers in Canada is well documented. Neil Stonechild, the Thunder Bay Police Service, and the treatment of protesters for Idle No More and Wet'suwet'en are just some of the many examples. Not to mention that Canada is becoming a far more diverse and multicultural nation, with immigrant communities from a wide range of backgrounds forming across Canada. Creating a means for police services to remain accountable, foster a sense of trust, and allowing for both officer safety as well as that of the public is essential.

As the Hamilton Police Service Board, public safety, the public trust in our institutions, as well as the safety, and efficacy of our police services is something that I am sure you take very seriously. Your commitment to helping shape the healthiest and most outstanding communities is appreciated. It is why you chose to work as a public servants. Please help with this initiative by doing the following:

- Advocate for the speedy and comprehensive adoption of Body-Worn Cameras for members of police service.
- Help remove roadblocks to their implementation by creating funding and legislation for their use.
- Promote a more transparent, equitable, racially unbiased, community focused police service.

Thank you for your commitment to safety, justice, and equity. Will you now work towards the improvement of our police services? What specific actions will you take towards this goal? I look forward to your response detailing how you will address these issues.

Sincerely,

Johann Heinrich Malan

[REDACTED]

Waterdown, ON

[REDACTED]

cc: David Sweet, MP; Donna Skelly, MPP, Fred Eisenberger, Mayor of Hamilton, Judi Partridge, Ward 15 Coucillor.